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# ***Daily Report***

## **Near East & South Asia**

FBIS-NES-96-014  
Monday  
22 January 1996

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# Daily Report

## Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-014

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22 January 1996

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### Inter-Arab Affairs

#### Arab League Praises Palestinian Elections

NC2101122596 Paris AFP in English  
1159 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 21 (AFP) — The Arab League praised on Sunday [21 January] Palestinian elections, but expressed sympathy for striking refugees in the diaspora who feel they have been ignored in the peace process with Israel.

The vote for a 88-member self-rule council and president on Saturday "is an important aspect in strengthening self-determination for the Palestinian people," deputy secretary general Kamal Sa'id told journalists.

It will "give a push to upcoming final status negotiations and the important issue of Palestinian refugees abroad," Kamal said.

He said the League "understands the strike by Palestinians in the refugee camps of Lebanon and Syria who are committed to their right to return which is one of the keys to a complete and just peace in the region."

Kamal also congratulated PLO head Yasir 'Arafat for his landslide victory in the early results from the voting for the council president, adding his "hope that the peace process continues under his leadership."

#### Arab League Report Claims Israeli, U.S. Designs on Red Sea

NC2101182596 Cairo MENA in Arabic  
1722 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—According to an Arab League report, Eritrea's occupation of the al-Hanish al-Kabir island is part of foreign designs on the Red Sea. The report notes Israel's endeavor to assert its naval presence in the Red Sea since 1948. It stresses that the Egyptian Navy's success in crossing at Bab el-Mandeb, paralyzing Israel's movement in the Red Sea, and preventing oil supplies to the Israeli Elat port for two months showed the importance of Arab control of the Arab islands in the Red Sea, particularly those overlooking maritime routes.

The report, which was prepared by Dr. Amin Sa'ati, official in charge of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula desk, points out that [Saudi] King 'Abd-al-'Aziz adopted a historic stance when he agreed that Egypt should station forces in the Tiran and Sinafir islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba to block Israeli navigation. The report also notes U.S. attempts in 1970 to establish an air base on Dahlak Island near the Eritrean port of Mits'iwa and the Arab League's opposition at the time.

The report asserts that the Yemen's slight presence on al-Hanish al-Kabir and al-Hanish al-Saghir islands is the reason for what is currently happening there.

#### Arab League Backs UN Resolution on Limited Iraqi Exports

NC2001172896 Paris AFP in English  
1442 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 20 (AFP)—The Arab League lent its backing on Saturday [20 January] to a United Nations resolution allowing Iraq to export limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine for its sanctions-blocked population.

"The League supports implementation of resolution 986 on an experimental basis for a period of six months to see if it constitutes a violation of Iraq's sovereignty or not," a senior official of the pan-Arab body told journalists.

"The League rejects any violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq," Ahmed Bin-Hilli said, adding that the resolution was "a step towards easing the suffering of the Iraqi people."

Bin-Hilli said the League was coordinating with "the United Nations and the five permanent Security Council members, especially France, in implementing the resolution."

Baghdad has agreed to begin talks with the UN on the offer contained in the resolution, passed in April 1995, which allows Iraq to export a billion dollars worth of oil every quarter to buy food and medicine.

It is not clear, however, whether it is willing to accept resolution 986.

Iraq has so far refused the offer because of the strict UN controls it places on the oil profits, part of which would have to go to Kurds in north Iraq. It also balked at a clause exporting most of the oil through Turkey.

Iraq has been under crippling UN sanctions since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

### Palestinian Affairs

#### 'Arafat Wins Presidential Post With 88.1 Percent of Vote

JN2101213596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic  
2116 GMT 21 Jan 96

[Statement by Muhammad Ishtayyah, secretary of the Central Election Committee, at the Election Committee Press Center in al-Birah, near Ramallah — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just heard that the Central Election Committee announced that Muham-

mad Yasir 'Abd-al-Ra'uf 'Arafat, Abu-'Ammar, has won the post of the president. The Committee congratulates brother Abu-'Ammar, who won 88.1 percent of the votes. Mrs. Samihah Yusuf al-Qubbaj Khalil obtained 9.3 percent of the votes. The committee also congratulates Mrs. Khalil on this spirit, and wishes her better results in the future.

#### 'Arafat Says Legislative Council Part of PNC

JN2101214596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic  
2018 GMT 21 Jan 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a delegation from the European troika at the Presidential Offices in Gaza this evening. The delegation was led by Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli.

Answering correspondents questions after the meeting, President 'Arafat said: We hope the first official session of the elected legislative council will be held during holy Ramadan [as heard].

President 'Arafat said the Palestine National Council (PNC) represents Palestinians all over the world and that the elected Palestinian Legislative Council is part of the PNC.

President 'Arafat thanked the European troika for its aid to the Palestinian people. He said it was not easy to hold the presidential and legislative elections in the Palestinian territory without aid from the EU and the European Commission.

Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli said she was pleased to be here during the first Palestinian legislative elections. Agnelli said the EU supports the Palestinian people.

#### PNC Members Welcome Return to Gaza, Oppose Change in Charter

JN2201102496 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English  
22 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Tareq Ayyoub; "Special to the Jordan Times"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Members of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) on Sunday [21 January] welcomed an invitation by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to all PNC members, including those who oppose the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy accords, to return to the self-rule areas. But they said it was too early to discuss annulling the Palestinian national charter that calls for the elimination of the Jewish state.

Mr. Peres told reporters on Saturday all PNC members were welcome to return to the West Bank and Gaza

Strip to take part in discussions of the newly-elected Palestinian self-rule council to amend the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) charter.

The abrogation of the charter is a prerequisite for further talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

"The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine supports the return of all PNC members and calls for the return of all displaced Palestinians and Palestinian refugees to the Palestinian territories," said Taysir Quba'as, the deputy chairman of the PNC. "We are happy to go back but we oppose any change in the Palestinian national charter before all Palestinians secure the right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," added Mr. Quba'a.

The head of the Islamic Jihad-Beit al-Maqdis, Asa'ad Bayoud al-Tamimi, who opposes any peace deal with Israel and calls for the elimination of Israel, told the Jordan Times that he received a telephone call from Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday confirming, that all PNC members would be able to return to the Palestinian territories by the second half of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

"We are happy with this," said Shaykh Tamimi. "Al-Jihad organisation welcomes this development but it is too early to talk about changing the national charter. We oppose any step in this direction."

A relative of 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayih, the 87-year-old chairman of the PNC who submitted his resignation from the PNC when the PLO and Israel launched their self-rule deal, said that Shaykh al-Sayih reserved comment on the issue "before receiving an official offer for his return."

The relative, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that if such an invitation was received, "the answer would be positive."

Salih Bargouthi, a severe critic of the autonomy accord, said he would be happy to return to the self-rule areas, but that the final decision of his return should come after "careful thinking and discussion with other members of the PNC in Amman."

Bahjat Abu Gharbieh, a leftist member of the PNC, said he believes that any Palestinian who could return to the Palestinian territories should not hesitate to do that.

"Members of the PNC have the right to go back. But personally I will not return because this return is conditional on support for the elimination of some articles in the national charter," added Mr. Abu Gharbiyeh.



He said that the self-rule council had no right to remove any article from the national charter without the approval of the PNC. "Therefore if any session of the PNC should take place discuss this issue, it should not be in the self-rule areas under Israeli occupation."

**PNC Speaker Demands Return to Jerusalem; Israel Objects**

TA2201063396 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*  
0500 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Oren Shahor, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, reported that the members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] will only be permitted to return to the Palestinian autonomous areas. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that PNC Speaker 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih demands being allowed to return to his home in East Jerusalem. Al-Sa'ih asserts that if he is denied this he will not return to the territories.

**'Abbas: PNC Only Party Able To Amend Palestinian National Charter**

JN2101194396 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*  
1736 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the democratic experience that began yesterday, Mahmud 'Abbas, chairman of the Central Election Committee and a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said: This experience must teach us one clear lesson: Without democracy, we cannot work. Democracy protects us from chaos.

He added: The single-institution problem no longer exists. Such a system failed in more than one place, and experience has confirmed the need for democracy, which means party, political, and intellectual pluralism.

'Abbas said Israel's decision to allow all members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to return is a positive step. He said: We in the Executive Committee agree to amend the PLO National Charter, which calls for the destruction of Israel. However, this matter must be decided by the PNC.

He added: With the Israeli decision, it is now easier to ask the PNC to meet. We will present the reasons and the obligations for an amendment to the PNC, and we hope the members of the PNC will be convinced and approve an amendment. Therefore, the matter can only be decided by the PNC and not the Palestinian Legislative Council. The National Authority can only explain the reasons when it asks the PNC to meet. This may happen within the next three months.

**'Abbas: 'Independent Palestinian State' To Be Declared by Council**

NC2101174496 *Paris AFP in English*  
1549 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Jan 21 (AFP)—The newly-elected Palestinian Legislative Council will declare an independent Palestinian state during its three-year mandate, a senior PLO official said here Sunday [21 January].

"The Council election brings us to within five minutes of independence and it's the Council which will declare independence during its three-year legislature," said Mahmud 'Abbas, a PLO Executive Committee member.

'Abbas, who chaired the election commission and was a key autonomy negotiator with Israel, said Saturday's historic polls "brought the Palestinian Authority from a situation of revolutionary legitimacy to one of institutional legitimacy."

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat won a presidential election held at the same time as the vote for an 88-member self-rule Council.

Israel's decision to allow the return of all members of the Palestine National Council [PNC], or parliament-in-exile, would help efforts to amend articles in the PLO Charter calling for Israel's destruction, said 'Abbas.

"The PLO Executive Committee agrees to amend the charter but the decision must be taken by the PNC," said 'Abbas. "I hope we will be able to persuade it to amend the charter."

In November 1988, the PNC made a symbolic declaration of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

**Al-Husayni on Israeli Measures in Jerusalem, State**

NC2201075296 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic*  
0615 GMT 22 Jan 96

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, by Muhammad al-Aswad at Orient House in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Aswad] Let us begin with your view of the manner in which elections were held in Jerusalem. Did you expect anything different? How do you explain what happened?

[Al-Husayni] The elections were held in a good climate throughout Palestine, Jerusalem excepted, due to Israeli measures. First, the Israelis insisted on measures that ensured we did not have enough polling stations



in Jerusalem. They approved only five stations accommodating no more than 5,000 voters. We have 56,000 voters here. We thus had to move 51,000 voters outside Jerusalem. The transfer of 51,000 voters from various parts of Jerusalem to outside the city angered and frustrated many Palestinians. It made things difficult.

The second point is the enormous massing of Israeli troops around the polling stations. This gave some Palestinians the impression that they were going to war, an army camp, or police station. Palestinian sentiments toward the Israeli police or army are not comforting. So we found that many Palestinians did not go to the polling stations. Yet the general turnout was high, indicating a desire to participate. But these Israeli measures [words indistinct].

[Al-Aswad] The Palestinians now have a legislative council and a president elected in a free and democratic manner. How will this affect the final status negotiations, including the fate of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] I believe our position will be stronger. We are part of this democratic world. Israel cannot keep saying to us: "You promised me. What guarantees do I have?" Now there are elected legal entities that can honor the necessary commitments within their powers.

I believe that holding elections in Jerusalem, even [words indistinct] the electoral campaign and all that was achieved in Jerusalem are another point to be added to our assets when we begin final negotiations.

[Al-Aswad] The Palestinian people have got themselves a legislative council and an elected president. What is the next step?

[Al-Husayni] We will continue to build the State's democratic establishments. Efforts will focus on binding these institutions properly with a law that guarantees the proper democratic practice and freedoms. With these steps, we must turn toward more investment; we must attract more investors from abroad. We will work to end the transitional phase and enter the final stage, in other words, set up a Palestinian state.

[Al-Aswad] The equation of building an independent state is three-sided; a state is based on a legislative, an executive, and a judicial authority. I believe that these three authorities are now available to the Palestinians. When will the independent Palestinian state be set up?

[Al-Husayni] We hope it will be established now. I believe that within the next four years we can officially proclaim this state.

[Al-Aswad] Israel Environment Minister Yosi Sarid announced recently that the final negotiations could be

concluded in one year instead of three years as provided in the Oslo agreement. What do you think?

[Al-Husayni] Why not, if the will to do so exists?

#### 'Arafat Promises To Amend Palestinian Covenant After Elections

TA2001135696 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*  
1100 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat promised a delegation of Peace Now friends from the United States that he will adhere to his promise to amend the Palestinian Covenant, adding that he will convene the Palestine National Council after the elections for that purpose. 'Arafat said there are two ways to accomplish this: One is to erase the previous covenant; the other is to change the clauses calling for Israel's destruction.

#### Hamas Warns 'Arafat Not to 'Muzzle' Palestinian Opposition

NC2101132396 *Paris AFP in English*  
1259 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Jan 21 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS), which boycotted the Palestinian self-rule elections, warned Yasir 'Arafat and his leadership on Sunday [21 January] against trying to muzzle the opposition.

"We warn the Palestinian Authority not to delude itself with this false victory and be tempted, contrary to the Oslo (peace) accord, to muzzle, diminish or suppress the opposition, notably Islamic," Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah told AFP.

Ghawshah, who lives in Amman, said "no force could isolate or annihilate the role of Hamas, which remains committed to its program of resistance and Jihad," or holy war, against Israel.

Eighty-five percent of Palestinians voted for 'Arafat as president of a new self-rule government during historic self-rule elections on Saturday, according to initial results.

Ghawshah said Arafat's "real figure was 50 percent, with 650,000 votes for, 650,000 against, including the 350,000 who boycotted the elections or voted against, to which should be added the 300,000 Palestinians who were not registered."

The Hamas spokesman added that "given the Palestinian population living outside the autonomous areas, which is three million, 'Arafat's mandate represents only 20 percent of the vote."

**Hamas Officials Vote in Palestinian Elections  
Despite Boycott**

TA2101112396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT  
in Hebrew 21 Jan 96 p 7

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Text] It appears that the historic Palestinian election day swept up even activists of extremist Muslim organizations. While senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members such as Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami abstained from voting, field activists were seen openly casting their votes at polling stations all over the Gaza Strip.

Sa'ud al-Shawwa, a senior Hamas activist in Gaza explained by saying: "These are the first, historic, elections. The people must exercise their rights and elect their representatives. Today we took the first democratic step toward the establishment of a state. Coming to vote makes me feel very good."

Other Hamas activists who participated in the elections said that their leaders ordered them to oppose the elections, but did not forbid voting. "It makes no difference today if you are Hamas or Islamic Jihad. This is a day for the whole Palestinian nation. It is an historic occasion and we want to be a part of it. No one knows what will happen tomorrow," an activist said.

The reports on the amazing turnout percentage caused a shock to the Hamas leaders, making them reconsider their stands for the first time. Some Hamas leaders said yesterday that the organization might have been wrong in choosing not to partake in the political game. "The high turnout clearly shows that the Palestinian Authority and the Oslo agreement enjoy the broad support of the public. We have to think about this," Hamas sources said last night.

At the same time, Dr. al-Zahhar sought to play down the value of the elections. He estimated that, despite the massive support for 'Arafat, Hamas will not be pushed to the fringes of Palestinian politics and will not lose its power.

An Israeli source said last night: "The high turnout means one thing — Hamas suffered a major blow. We should remember that Hamas tried various methods to prevent the elections and prevent people from voting. When they did vote, the residents were saying no to Hamas and its violent ways."

**51 Arrested, 3 Wounded in Jerusalem Election  
Disturbances**

TA2001172696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
1700 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In East Jerusalem, 51 people, Jews and Arabs, were arrested during the day on suspicion of stone throwing, incitement, disturbing the voting process, and attacking policemen. Three people were slightly wounded. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Kakh activists took responsibility for attacking Faysal al-Husayni and his bodyguards, as well as spraying Arabs with tear gas and damaging their shops.

**Al-Rujub Prevented From Casting Vote in  
Jerusalem**

JN2001182096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic  
1700 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation forces have intensified their military measures around Jerusalem and prevented many citizens from entering the polling centers.

Occupation authorities also stopped Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of Preventive Security, and prevented him from entering a polling center to cast his vote in occupied Jerusalem. They also arrested local observer Khalid al-Sha'th and a U.S. observer. Hand-to-hand fighting erupted between the international observers and Israeli police.

Moreover, a photographer working for AFP was beaten up by the Israeli Border Police in a Jerusalem neighborhood near a Palestinian shopping center. The photographer said he was trying to take pictures of a Palestinian youth being arrested by troops in Bayt Hanina when a soldier told him to stop taking pictures. When the photographer refused to do so, a soldier hit him in the head.

Faysal al-Husayni and other Palestinian officials have continued their contacts with the Israeli side to discuss these arbitrary measures which aim to obstruct elections in Jerusalem.

**Palestinian Election Turnout in Various Cities  
Reported**

JN2001163896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic  
1600 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Muhammad Shutayya, secretary of the Central Election Committee, said the heavy deployment of occupation forces and police in occupied Jerusalem has prevented many citizens from reaching the polling centers within the municipality's borders.

At a news conference, Dr. Shatayya said turnout in the Gaza Strip reached 65 percent by 1500 local time today. In the city of Jerusalem, the turnout reached 30 percent, and 65 percent outside the municipality's borders. In Ramallah, the turnout was 65 percent; Nabulus, 50 percent; Janin, 50 percent; and 60 percent in the governorate's villages. In Jericho, it was 80 percent; Tulkarm, 65 percent; Hebron, 35 percent; and 55 percent for the towns and villages of the Hebron governorate. In Salfit, the turnout reached 70 percent, and in Tubas 70 percent. Turnout in the Gaza Strip reached 75 percent of those registered on the voter lists. This was announced by the Central Election Committee this afternoon.

[Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic at 1625 GMT on 20 January reports that the overall voter turnout in all Palestinian cities reached 65 percent by 1600 local time]

#### **Palestinian Election Committee Confiscates Ballot Boxes in 2 Centers**

JN2101073196 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*  
0600 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Election Committee has issued two decisions confiscating [tahaffazat 'ala] the ballot boxes in two election centers in Dayr al-Balah and Jabaliyah. The two decisions said: In accordance with the reports submitted by the two constituencies' committees and in view of the chaos and confrontations which occurred during the voting process, the Central Election Committee decided to confiscate the ballot boxes in the above two centers and not undertake vote counting. The appropriate measures will be taken in accordance with the provisions of the law once the Central Election Committee has received all the initial results.

#### **Palestinian Election Committee Man Killed by Polling Station Guard**

TA2101102096 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*  
1000 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An official of the Palestinian Central Election Committee was shot to death by a member of the Palestinian security forces in the village of Salim in the Nabulus District this morning.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menaheem reports that the victim, Hashim Nasir, asked the security man, Iyad Shatayah, to leave the polling station after the voting and, during the debate, Shatayah drew a gun and shot Nasir to death. The Palestinian Police arrested the assailant, imposed a curfew on the village, and collected guns from the residents.

#### **Biographies of New Palestinian Council Members**

NC2101181396 *Paris AFP in English*  
1632 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Jan 21 (AFP) — The following are thumbnail sketches of some of the leading figures in the Palestinian self-rule legislature chosen Saturday [20 January] in the first Palestinian general elections.

#### **THE 'ARAFAT TEAM**

Nabil Sha'th, 54: One of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's closest advisers, Sha'th was also one of the earliest advocates of dialogue with Israel, arguing from the late 1960s for the creation of a democratic state grouping both Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

He later served as coordinator of the Palestinian delegations which negotiated the peace agreements with Israel, notably working out details for implementation of the "Gaza-Jericho first" autonomy plan.

As head of the PLO's Beirut-based planning department, Sha'th ran a political career while at the same time building a successful computer business headquartered in Cairo.

The portly and well-dressed Sha'th is also president of the political affairs committee within the Palestinian National Council, the PLO parliament-in-exile.

He was the planning and international cooperation minister in 'Arafat's Gaza-based Palestinian Authority and ran on the official list of 'Arafat's Fatah movement in Khan Yunus on the Gaza Strip. He is originally from Safad in northern Israel.

Ahmad Quray', 58. Also known by his nom-de-guerre Abu-'Ala', Quray' was an architect of the autonomy accords which paved the way for the first Palestinian general elections and self-rule for the Gaza Strip and main West Bank towns.

He led the Palestinian delegation to secret negotiations held with Israel in Oslo which led to the Gaza-Jericho accord in September 1993. In 1995, Quray' was also at the head of the team which hammered out the September 28 deal with Israel extending autonomy to the West Bank.

Born in Abu Dis, a village in the eastern suburbs of Jerusalem, Quray's career has been devoted to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO and he has been a PLO executive committee member since 1989.

Named chief of the PLO's Tunis-based economic department in 1982, he served as economy minister in the



Palestinian Authority set up in Gaza City in July 1995 and led the PA reconstruction council.

Quray' led the Fatah slate of candidates in east Jerusalem.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, born in 1955, is one of the new generation of Palestinian leaders which emerged after the Intifadah uprising against Israeli occupation broke out in 1987. Unlike the older camp, he has not lived in exile.

Originally from Jerusalem, 'Urayqat studied at San Francisco and Bradford, England. On his return to the Palestinian territories under occupation, he taught political science in the West Bank town of Nabulus.

After standing out at the Madrid peace conference, in part because of his keffiyeh or Palestinian headdress, he was named local government and municipal affairs minister in the Palestinian Authority.

He ran for office on the Fatah ticket in the West Bank town of Jericho.

Marwan Barghuti, a Fatah official born in 1959, is another of the younger, "Intifadah" generation of Fatah leaders.

Barghuti was close to Khalil al-Wazir, better known as Abu-Jihad, one of 'Arafat's oldest friends and allies and a coordinator of the Intifadah before his assassination in Tunis by the Israeli secret service in 1988.

Barghuti was expelled from the territories in May 1987 when he was president of the students' union at Bi'r Zayt University on the West Bank.

He returned from exile in 1994 after the launch of self-rule and ran for election on the Fatah list in Ramallah.

#### THE INDEPENDENTS

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, 76. A surgeon, 'Abd-al-Shafi came to world prominence as head of the delegation of Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories sent to sit alongside Israel at the October 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

A former communist, 'Abd-al-Shafi heads the Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip and is respected as a man of his word by virtually all the Palestinian factions, a rare distinction.

He pulled out of the negotiating process with Israel after the deportation of 415 Moslem fundamentalists from the occupied territories to south Lebanon in December 1992.

Twice briefly deported himself, 'Abd-al-Shafi was deputy speaker of the first Palestinian parliament-

in-exile from 1964 to 1965 and has often mediated between rival Palestinian factions.

A fervent nationalist defending the cause of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, 'Abd-al-Shafi has assailed 'Arafat's autonomy accords with Israel as too conciliatory, although he remains committed to the peace process.

Trained in medicine in Beirut and the United States, 'Abd-al-Shafi ran under the banner of his left-wing Democratic National Coalition in the elections and was elected from Gaza City to the council, where he is expected to be one of the more outspoken independent voices.

Hanan 'Ashrawi: A 49-year-old academic, she emerged on the international scene as spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid peace conference.

Her eloquence and composure before the world's cameras even won the admiration of her Israeli adversaries.

It was as a student at the American University of Beirut in the late 1960s that 'Ashrawi became interested in politics.

The often mini-skirted daughter of a middle-class family from Ramallah in the West Bank worked in Palestinian refugee camps around the Lebanese capital.

After graduating from the University of Virginia in the United States, she ran the English-language department at Bi'r Zayt University for eight years and then became dean of the arts faculty.

'Ashrawi parted ways with the Palestinian peace team after she learned that 'Arafat had been carrying out the secret Oslo talks through 'Abu-'Ala' without her knowledge.

'Ashrawi turned down a ministerial post in 'Arafat's self-rule authority in May 1994 and has been an outspoken critic of the PA leader's autocratic governing style.

Instead, she ran the Palestinian commission for civil rights. Born in Nabulus to a Greek-Orthodox Christian family, she is married and has two daughters.

'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, born in 1931. Salih is a veteran nationalist and long time rival of 'Arafat, who removed him as a member of the PLO executive committee in 1981. He had served seven years on the body.

He has been a member of the PNC since 1974.

Born in the Ramallah suburb of al-Birah, Salih became active in the leftwing nationalist movement in the 1950s and was arrested by the Jordanian authorities then in control of the Trans-Jordan territory in 1963.



Salih was elected mayor of al-Birah in 1967 and held the job until being exiled by Israeli in 1973.

He was allowed to return home 20 years later after the first autonomy accord was reached between Israel and the PLO. Since then, Salih has lead a "Land defense committee" fighting the spread of Jewish settlements in the Palestinian areas.

He was elected as an independent in the Ramallah district.

#### **Election Winners in Janin, Qalqilyah Areas Announced**

*JN2101193596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1852 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The radio's news department has ascertained the names of the winners in the Janin area. For instance, it was earlier thought that Jamal Shati was in first place. Now he is the second-place candidate. The correct list of winners in the Janin area is as follows:

1. Burhan Nihad Jarrar received 18,458 votes.
2. Jamal Shati Yusuf al-Hindi received 17,435 votes.
3. 'Azzm Najib al-Ahmad received 14,120 votes.
4. Hikmat Hashim Zayd received 14,101 votes.
5. Ahmad Sulayman Ahmad Irshayd received 13,474 votes.
6. Mahmud Farid Abu-al-Rubb received 11,444 votes.

[Jericho Voice of Palestine announced at 1820 GMT that in the Qalqilyah area, where 12 candidates competed for two seats, Mahmud Ahmad Mahmud Da'as won a seat with 5,934 votes and 'Uthman Husayn al-Hai 'Ali Ghashshash won the other seat with 5,420 votes.]

#### **'Arafat Discloses Assassination Attempt by Jewish Settlers**

*JN2001124796 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jan 96 p 24, 41*

[By correspondent 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, Jerusalem — Well-informed Palestinian sources revealed to AL-DUSTUR yesterday that during a meeting in Jericho with Jerusalem candidates two days ago, Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat said "he was the target of an assassination attempt by Israeli settlers in Gaza after he returned from Paris, where he attended the funeral of former French President Francois Mitterrand."

'Arafat told the candidates that "he survived the attempt due to the vigilance of his highly-trained security guards." 'Arafat said that settlers in a car tried to

intercept his motorcade, but his alert and vigilant escorts prevented it.

At the same meeting, 'Arafat said there is a big conspiracy against Jerusalem, citing the edicts by 1,200 Jewish rabbis to eliminate Arabs from the city of Jerusalem. He added: "We should not slight these edicts, nor the large number of Jewish rabbis who issued them." He noted that the edicts issued by only two Jewish rabbis were enough to encourage extremist Yigal Amir to assassinate former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

'Arafat criticized the activities of 20 Jerusalem candidates who asked Jerusalem Mayor Olmert to allow them to place their campaign material along the streets and roads of Jerusalem. He added: "They should not have done this, because we want to force our presence in Jerusalem, without intervention and without asking permission. This should have remained a Palestinian affair."

'Arafat said: "An important Arab foreign minister intervened with the Israelis to demand two ballot boxes be provided for the Palestinians in Jerusalem. The Israelis rejected this intervention. But when I told the Israeli prime minister at a recent meeting about the need to set up five ballot boxes in Jerusalem, he agreed to it."

#### **PFLP-DFLP Unified Command Rejects Palestinian Elections**

*JN1901201696 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1755 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The unified command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Jerusalem issued a statement, reiterating both front's rejection of the elections in terms of nomination and voting. The unified command said that the elections threaten the unity of our people inside Palestine and in the diaspora.

The PFLP and DFLP unified command called on our masses inside Palestine to boycott these elections and not to head for polls. The unified command greeted the stand of our masses in the diaspora, who announced their rejection of these elections by declaring a general strike in the diaspora refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan tomorrow to underscore their adherence to the unity of the people.

**'Abd-al-Shafi: 'Arafat Behaving Like 'Real Dictator'**

BR1901142796 Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR  
in French 18-24 Jan 96 p 57

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, director of the Red Crescent hospital in Gaza, by Victor Cygielman; place and date not given: "'Arafat Is Behaving Like a Dictator"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Cygielman] You present yourself as an opponent of Mr. 'Arafat. What do you have against him?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The fact that he is behaving like a real dictator.

[Cygielman] But if he is elected president, he will then be legitimate and will no longer be a dictator?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I hope so. We are taking part in these elections because we want representatives who take seriously their task of exercising control over the

executive, by which I mean 'Arafat. Our candidates are committed to a free press and freedom of speech. One of them, Dr. Saraj, was arrested and questioned by the Palestinian police for having criticized the disregard for human rights under the authority of 'Arafat. We will fight to ensure that such arrests, including the arrest of journalists, are no longer possible. We will also say that the Oslo agreements do not lead to independence but to turning Palestine into something along canton lines.

[Cygielman] The Oslo agreements have also permitted the elections in which you will be participating. They have led to the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Palestinian towns....

['Abd-al-Shafi] The departure of Israeli soldiers from our towns is a relief but that is all part of the Israeli strategy. Israel still refuses to choose between the territories and peace. They want peace and the territories, peace and the Jewish settlements.

## Algeria

### Car Bombs in Algeria Kill 2, Injure 40

*LD2101155496 Paris LCI Television in French  
1500 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramadan is being observed against a backdrop of violence in Algeria. Two fatal car bomb attacks took place yesterday [20 January], the first near Blida, to the south of Algiers, and the second not far from Bouira, to the east of the capital. Two people were killed and around 40 injured. The period of Ramadan is considered to be a favorable time for jihad, in other words Holy War.

### New FLN Secretary General in Algeria Comments on Mehri, Zeroual

*LD2101231796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network  
in French 1800 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The new secretary-general of the FLN [National Liberation Front], Boualem Benhamouda, has inaugurated his mandate with a news conference at the headquarters of the party in Hedra. Rania Cherif reports:

[Cherif] For the new secretary general of the FLN, nothing will be decided until the next meeting of the central committee scheduled for 28 February.

The absence of the FLN at the weekly meeting of the Rome coalition may mean that the above-mentioned coalition will from now on do without the party. Mr Benhamouda said that this alliance has been overtaken by events.

When they emerged in January 1995 the authorities were illegitimate, but there have been new developments since then, in particular the presidential elections, for which there was a record turnout. This statement, which seems to be less cutting than some members of the central committee of the FLN would have liked it to be — they are the ones who chose (him) to lead them — shows a clear new direction for the FLN, as well as the fact that it no longer belongs to the Rome coalition, even though the divorce has not been declared officially. Mr Benhamouda explicitly acknowledged the failure of the Rome platform's call for a boycott.

In his news conference Mr Benhamouda also discussed the relations of his party with the authorities. He avoided a clear-cut answer when he said, I quote: The FLN will wait until President Zeroual's detailed views are known before it takes a stance. He added that President Zeroual is a sincere man and that he never belonged to the clans which held power successively in the past.

Mr Benhamouda, however, was more precise concerning the strengthening of democracy. He said local and

general elections should take place as soon as possible for the country to have elected institutions. [as heard]

And finally, Mr Benhamouda repeated how much his party values political dialogue with all those organizations which support a peaceful solution to the crisis and which condemn violence as a means to seize power.

Mr Benhamouda concluded by saying that Mr Mehri's departure was necessary because of the new phase Algeria is going through after the presidential elections and because of the internal situation of the National Liberation Front.

### Algerian Security Forces Kill 18 'Criminals'

*LD2001192196 Algiers Radio Algiers Network  
in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced in a statement today that a dangerous criminal gang had been wiped out.

Following a tip-off, on 17 January the security forces carried out a major manhunt at Djebel Bousfifa, a mountain on the borders between the provinces of Constantine, Guelma, and Skikda. During the operation, the security forces eliminated 12 criminals and recovered their weapons.

At the province of Chlef, the security forces eliminated on 19 January three dangerous criminals who carried out a number of assassinations and criminal acts.

In Algiers, the security forces eliminated another three criminals.

During the above operations, the security forces were able to recover weapons and ammunition.

## Egypt

### Tehran on Egyptian Islamic Group Statement Against U.S. Interests

*NC2001180196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic  
of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Group, the major Islamic opposition organization in Egypt, has threatened to strike at U.S. interests and figures in the wake of the unfair American sentence against Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

In a statement issued in Cairo, the Islamic Group said it announces before God its irreversible determination to strike a blow in return for a blow. American interests and personalities are legitimate targets for our jihad until mujahid Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and the rest of his brothers are released from American jails, the statement says.

The statement adds that the Islamic Group renews its appeal to Muslims everywhere to avenge their sanctities and rub the American nose in the dirt.

**Opposition Campaign To Urge Mubarak To Call New Elections**

NC2201112396 Paris AFP in English  
1102 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 22 (AFP)—The Egyptian opposition launched a campaign on Monday [22 January] to urge President Hosni Mubarak to call new elections aiming to collect a million signatures on a petition.

In December's general elections, the opposition emerged with its worst showing in more than 10 years leading to complaints of massive government vote-rigging and election fraud.

"This campaign, which has been agreed on by all opposition parties, will continue until we get the required number of signatures," Ibrahim al-Dasuqi Abazah, a senior member of the liberal Al-Wafd party told AFP.

"It is part of a series of measures adopted by the opposition following the legislative elections" which saw Mubarak's National Democratic party sweep to victory.

Legal opposition movements as well as outlawed groups such as the Moslem Brotherhood and the Communist Party have been holding meetings across the country to explain their calls for the current parliament to be dissolved and new elections held.

The petition was published Monday on the front page of the opposition weekly AL-ARABI under the headline "A million signatures for democracy." It called on readers to sign it and send it to the paper.

The petition reads "We the under-signed reject the massive fraud which took place in the last elections for the People's Assembly and demand that the president of the republic carries out an urgent political and democratic reform to prepare the ground for free and honest elections."

**Mubarak on Palestinian Elections, Terrorism**

BR1901135896 Paris LE FIGARO in French  
19 Jan 96 p 4

[Interview with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak by Charles Lambroschini; place and date not given: "Mubarak: The Palestinian Elections Mark 'A Major

Step Forward' — The Egyptian President Calls Upon the West To Be Very Firm With the Fundamentalists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lambroschini] Do the Palestinian elections not run the risk of losing a good part of their political value if Yasir 'Arafat only secures a relative majority as a result of the fundamentalists' orders to abstain from voting?

[Mubarak] That is a Palestinian affair. I do not want to get mixed up in it. All I want is for them to come together in their decision to go and vote. It is in their general interest to put their quarrels and confrontations behind them. There have been enough battles and enough blood has been shed. The Palestinians must now cooperate because it is in their common interest to do so. For the good of their country and of their people. There is no alternative.

[Lambroschini] Provided that no doubts are cast on the democratic nature of this election. However, 'Arafat's autocratic methods are provoking a great deal of criticism.

[Mubarak] All elections provoke criticism. It is impossible to satisfy every individual or group of people. Look what happened in the parliamentary elections held in Egypt back in December. Something that I had not expected! You journalists should have been there to see for yourselves what the situation was really like instead of listening to the whining of those people who said: "By God! These elections have been rigged!"

The Egyptian Government did not intervene in the election. The police were only mobilized to prevent acts of violence. And as a result there were 4,000 candidates for 444 seats and in the first round our Democratic National Party obtained just 30 percent of the votes. So, I have the same conviction where the Palestinian elections are concerned: This election represents a major step forward.

[Lambroschini] Do you think that the Palestinian elections will enable calm to be restored on the West Bank and in Gaza, and that it will mark an end to the terrorism there?

[Mubarak] I think that things will calm down. Thanks to the elections the peace process should continue in a much more relaxed atmosphere. When the right time comes, the stimulation of this approach based on discussion will enable the very thorny problems of Jerusalem and the status of the holy sites to be dealt with. This is a very important topic for all Muslims, not just the Arabs. Care must always be taken not to encourage the fundamentalists, who use their religion as an alibi to generate even more violence.



[Lambroschini] Do you believe that Syria and Israel will finally launch their talks?

[Mubarak] Things are beginning to move. The Jordanians have signed a peace agreement. The agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians is being implemented. All this cannot fail to help the development of the peace process, and hence facilitate an opening into the final stage: the talks between Syria and Israel.

#### "New Atmosphere"

[Lambroschini] Might President al-Asad not be busy preparing his place in history? Bearing in mind his age, is he not seeking to crown his presidency by being the man of peace?

[Mubarak] No. President al-Asad does not see the problem in this light. Each time he negotiates or makes concessions, it is for the benefit of his country.

[Lambroschini] Has the assassination of Rabin, about whose sincerity al-Asad had his doubts, served to overcome the reluctance of the Syrian president?

[Mubarak] Perhaps. There is a new atmosphere. Mr. Peres is now sending out very intelligent signals to the Syrians. The Israelis are proving more flexible. It will take time, but I think that in the end the negotiations will get off the ground.

[Lambroschini] Provided that the Islamic threat does not succeed in sabotaging the peace process.

[Mubarak] Islam does not constitute a danger for anyone. The problem stems from terrorist groups, movements that exploit religion for political ends. Fundamentalism is not the exclusive domain of the Arabs or Palestinians. It is a global phenomenon. Rabin was killed by a Jewish fundamentalist. Terrorism exists in both France and the United States. There is not one country where it can be claimed that there is no fundamentalism.

[Lambroschini] But the terrorist groups you mentioned often seem to be merely the instruments of other countries.

[Mubarak] We should concentrate on the terrorist groups themselves, especially those operating out of Sudan. They finance their activities via all kinds of trafficking, especially drugs. They claim to be "Islamists," but frankly they have no idea what they are talking about. Islam is a religion like any other. It advocates peace, love, and cooperation. It does not advocate bloodshed and hate.

[Lambroschini] Which foreign powers are behind these groups?

[Mubarak] It would seem that Sudan has an interest in accommodating fundamentalists. However, this is not in the nature of the Sudanese people, who are very generous. The problem is that in that country there are people who are helping the fundamentalists to earn money. For example, they sell them passports.

[Lambroschini] Is Sudan supported by Iran?

[Mubarak] Maybe. You never know!

[Lambroschini] How should Iran be treated? Should all the various embargoes and sanctions to which Tehran is still subjected be lifted?

[Mubarak] The embargoes can be lifted when Iran stops supporting terrorist groups.

[Lambroschini] And yet these days the tendency would appear to be for terrorist bases to be located in the West. For instance, the wave of terrorist attacks to which France fell victim was organized from Great Britain.

[Mubarak] Some day those countries which are sheltering terrorists will end up paying the price of doing so. The United States, which has just sentenced Shaykh Abdul Rahman, the man behind the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, has just learned this at its expense. The West must take drastic steps in this connection. You have to be very firm with these people.

[Lambroschini] But the right of asylum is one of the principles of democracy.

[Mubarak] If a Frenchman killed one of his countrymen in Egypt, would you sit back and allow Egypt to grant the assassin political asylum? Any democracy will betray itself by granting asylum to murderers.

[Lambroschini] And yet there are some terrorists who claim to be freedom fighters?

[Mubarak] Freedom fighters are quite another matter. They are fighting against a foreign power which is occupying their country. But terrorist groups try to destabilize stable countries. They have no excuse.

[Lambroschini] Plenty of terrorists have become heads of state.

[Mubarak] That is true. But then how many people have gone through hell.

#### **Egypt's Foreign Ministry Welcomes Palestinian Elections**

NC2101142096 Cairo MENA in English  
1350 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, Jan 21—(MENA)—Egypt today warmly welcomed the Palestinian elections

which were held in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem yesterday.

In a statement issued here today, the Foreign Ministry said that the elections were an historic step towards allowing the Palestinian people to exercise its legitimate political and national rights and to establish its independent state on its national soil.

Egypt urges both the Palestinian and Israeli sides to meet their commitments in accordance with the interim phase agreement, in order to start the final negotiations in May to reach a just durable settlement of the Palestinian cause, which is considered the essence of the Middle East conflict, according to the statement.

**Mubarak Reception of U.S. Envoy Albright Noted**  
NC2201093696 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak today received Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a tour of the region.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker.

**U.S. 'Demands' Egypt Sell Military Products to Israel**

NC2001122296 *Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 17 Jan 96 p 1*

[Report by Mahmud al-Hadari : "America's Most Serious Demand: The Sale of Our Military Production to Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During his talks in Cairo last Monday [15 January], U.S. Vice President Albert Gore called for opening up extensive avenues for investment between Egypt and Israel without any restrictions on the types of civilian and military investments.

Regarding the demand by members of the Presidents' Council on the partnership agreement with the United States to sell the products of Military Factory 200 to a third country, Gore suggested Israel as a customer for these products, including M1A1 tanks. He said that getting Israel as a customer will meet Egypt's commercial aspirations and promote the principle of economic partnership.

Gore claimed that this will promote equilibrium and parity between Israel and Egypt when aid to them is eventually reduced, especially as Israel's purchases will be paid for from the [U.S.] aid program.

The U.S. delegation gave its reasons for on this demand, which are based on the premise that support for Egypt's strategic and political role aims at promoting further cooperation with Israel as an incentive for the other countries in the region to enter into regional cooperation, particularly with Israel, even in bilateral form.

The U.S. delegation linked this to our benefiting from the U.S. military surplus and the continuing U.S. aid programs.

Informed sources said that the U.S. side did not touch on the Egyptian side's demand that Egypt and not Israel be regarded as the gateway to the East for their cooperation program, but ignored any mention of it. This identical demand was made repeatedly in 1995 during the meetings of the joint economic committee and the Presidents' Council whenever the view that Israel is the gateway to the East was raised.

The U.S. delegation's proposals met strong reservations from official executive and political circles, which refused to comment on them so as not to have the proposals included in the final communique or the recommendations.

Agreement was reached at that time to continue the dialogue about initiating such military cooperation.

Gore arrived in Jericho yesterday after visiting Israel the day before.

**Egypt: Mashhur Expected To Be New Muslim Brotherhood Leader**

NC2001100296 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, the general guide of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group, died today aged 83.

Abu-al-Nasr has been in a recurrent coma in Cairo's al-Amal Hospital for several weeks.

He was born in 1913 in Manfalut in Asyut Governorate, Upper Egypt. He joined the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group in the thirties. He has three children, two boys and a girl.

[Paris AFP in English at 0944 GMT on 20 January in a similar Cairo-dated report adds the following: "His deputy, Mustafa Mashhur, will take over as acting head and is expected to be confirmed as the movement's new leader, al-Hudaybi said."

[AFP adds: "Mashhur has in effect directed the Brotherhood for the last several years because of Abu-al-Nasr's deteriorating health, according to officials within the group who requested anonymity."]

**Egypt: New Brotherhood Leader Discusses Plans for Political Party***NC2001163096 Paris AFP in English  
1419 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[Report by Mona Salem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 20 (AFP)—The new leader of the Muslim Brotherhood is aiming to found a political party for the first time in the fundamentalist group's efforts to establish Islamic rule in Egypt.

The Brotherhood "wants a political party to have an official presence," Mustafa Mashhur, 75, told AFP on Saturday.

Mashhur said he would be named head of the movement "soon" to succeed Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, who died Saturday at the age of 83.

It would be the first time the Brotherhood has announced a bid to become a party since its founding in 1928.

"We call for the implementation of Islamic Shariah law and will continue our call by all available means without breaking the law or constitution," Mashhur said.

"We will not turn to violence and we hope that God will allow an opening between us and (the government) to put an end to the injustice of which we have been victims," he said.

The Brotherhood, although banned in 1954, has been tolerated since the mid-1970s, when it said it renounced violence.

But the unofficial truce fell apart last year as the state imprisoned dozens of Brotherhood members and accused the group of backing armed Moslem extremists fighting for almost the last four years to topple the government.

Mashhur ruled out calls by younger Brotherhood members for an end to the group's non-violent stance, saying: "We will continue on the moderate path and not follow the unconsidered enthusiasm of the young."

The new leader backed the first ever application for a political party, made by other young Brotherhood cadres "who have called for the creation of the Al-Wasat (Center) party."

"We no longer want the government to call us a banned and underground organization. (Al-Wasat) would not be an alternative group (to the Brotherhood) but a political face which would allow us to have a newspaper and headquarters."

"I hope the government will authorize the party, but I think it will refuse," he said.

The group's headquarters in downtown Cairo was closed by police in November after a military court sentenced 54 Brothers to up to five years in prison.

The Muslim Brotherhood has been involved in a number of assassinations in its 68-year history.

Its military wing, created in 1942, murdered prime minister Ahmad Mahir three years later. In 1948, it assassinated a judge, Ahmad al-Khazindar, who had sentenced a number of its members, and later the same year another premier al-Naqrashi Pasha.

In 1954, president Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir accused the Brotherhood of attempting to gun him down and banned the group.

Mashhur, born in 1921 in the northern Nile Delta region of al-Sharqiyah, studied physical sciences at Cairo University before being appointed to the state meteorological service, from which he retired in 1977.

He joined the Brotherhood in 1938 and was condemned to prison for the first time in 1948.

He was released three years later but sentenced again to 10 years in prison in connection with the 1954 attempt to kill 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Mashhur was arrested a third time several months after being released in 1964 and was released in 1972 by the then president, Anwar al-Sadat, in a general amnesty of Brotherhood members.

He has served as the virtual leader of the Brotherhood for the past few years because of his predecessor Abu-al-Nasr's deteriorating health.

Mashhur is the author of several works, including "Jihad is the Path" and "By Way of the Call".

**Egypt: Link Between al-Wasat, Brotherhood Denied***NC2001150996 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic  
16 Jan 96 p 1*

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Muslim Brotherhood (MB) spokesman and deputy general guide; and Abu-al-'Ula Madi have denied that the new al-Wasat Party, an application for whose establishment has been presented to the Parties Affairs Committee, has any relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood.

In a statement to AL-SHA'B, Counselor al-Hudaybi denied that this party, which a number of MB members have joined, represents or expresses MB views. He added: We have nothing to do with it!



Asked about the Brotherhood's earlier plans to establish a political party, al-Hudaybi said that the plans still exist, but circumstances and the authorities' well-known stance toward the Brotherhood are obstructing these plans. He noted that the Parties Affairs Committee is affiliated to the regime and that the president's remarks about any Brotherhood organization are known.

Engineer Abu-al-'Ula Madi, representative of the al-Wasat Party's founders, has also denied that the majority of its members are from the Brotherhood or that there is any connection between the party and the Brotherhood. He added: This party is the responsibility of those who run it. It is not derived from any other entity or organization. He added that the intention is to set up a party that represents something that does not already exist—namely, an Egyptian centrist current that embodies the majority of Egyptians. He denied claims that the National Democratic Party is a centrist party, saying it is a rightist party.

**Egypt: MB Founder of New al-Wasat Party  
Interviewed**

NC2001113096 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic  
17 Jan 96 p 4

[Interview with Engineer Abu-al-'Ula Madi Abu-al-'Ula, representative of the founders of the al-Wasat Party, "which is now being established," by correspondent 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Ali] You have rejected the idea of political parties for many years. Why are you changing your mind now?

[Abu-al-'Ula] We, the young generation, were not against having political parties, but the idea was not even brought up when we were students in the 1970's, or when we were in the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood in the 1980's. For us, trade union's were our vehicle for public work. Moreover, in 1984, we formed alliances with the Wafd Party and ran for the People's Assembly elections on its ticket. Maybe at some stage we found no justification for political parties, but one's ideas develop with time.

['Ali] Can we say that by establishing a party, you are showing you have forsaken the slogan "Islam is the Solution"?

[Abu-al-'Ula] We never abandoned this slogan, because we still firmly believe in it. Many people have blamed us for not putting this slogan into practice. Well, this is what we have recently done through that document in your hand (referring to the party's platform).

['Ali] Should we understand from this that the party is only a front for the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and an attempt to circumvent the Government's ban?

[Abu-al-'Ula] We, the founding group, are expressing our own ideas; we are not a front for anyone. But because all doors to our legitimate work are closed to us and we are being harassed in the professional associations and accused of being illegitimate, we have only two options: either to join the existing parties or to create a new body through which to express our ideas. The founders, in full accord, chose to create a new body, this party.

['Ali] You still say that you, the Muslim Brothers, are seeking legitimacy through this party, nothing more?

[Abu-al-'Ula] Any man of ideas needs a medium to put his ideas into practice; this is our right. But I can emphasize that the Brothers may disagree on some points in our program. This means that the party reflects the ideas of the founders' age group and social and political composition.

['Ali] Can it be said then that the party is being created for a transitional period?

[Abu-al-'Ula] I think that if there were no restrictions on trade union activity and if the Brothers were allowed to work publicly, things would be different. The formation of this party was discussed for many years; what happened only speeded up its birth and encouraged many people to adopt the idea.

['Ali] Why, then, do the founders include no senior Brotherhood figures?

[Abu-al-'Ula] I told you before that this is the founders' idea; we want to be similar in terms of age and experience so we can do positive work. But if one of the big Muslim Brotherhood names wants to come forward, let him do that directly and personally. Clearly, we are not a front for anyone.

['Ali] Does this mean there is a split between the young and old generations within the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Abu-al-'Ula] There are no splits, just different views. We agree on the main principles of the Islamic call, but we have differences on how to engage in politics; these are legitimate differences that do not spoil cordial relations.

['Ali] You went into public work as a Muslim Brotherhood activist; are you still one?

[Abu-al-'Ula] Naturally, my affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood is an honor for me. But now I am presenting myself merely as an Egyptian citizen representing



the founders of the al-Wasat Party, without relinquishing my ideas and my affiliation.

[Ali] Your ticket includes two Copts. What is your position on the Copts, and how did you present the idea to these two?

[Abu-al-'Ula] Our position is well known, both in our platform and our public statements. All citizens, both Muslims and Christians, must enjoy equal rights as citizens. Christians have the same right to serve in the government and presidency as Muslims. I presented our platform to Dr. Rafiq Samuel Habib and he told me that it expresses his own personal views, and he immediately decided to join us.

[Ali] What if the Party Affairs Commission rejects your application?

[Abu-al-'Ula] We agreed to enter the political game, to present our ideas openly, and we believed in political pluralism and the need for power to be rotated. I hope the Commission will not reject a party with such principles, but if it does we will take all possible legal measures.

### Sudan

#### Sudan Notes Readiness To Help Find Mubarak Suspects

NC1901193896 London MBC Television in Arabic  
1800 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan today expressed its commitment to fully contribute to efforts to locate three suspects involved in the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. This came in MBC's interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha in London.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Taha asserted his country's readiness to cooperate with the international community to fight all forms of violence and terrorism worldwide.

[Begin Taha recording] In an unofficial meeting with its members, we clarified to the Security Council that Sudan's firm and clear stand denounces all forms of international terrorism and the use of violence in political conflicts. No matter what the motives, violence has no political or legal basis.

Sudan's firm stand calls for cooperation with the international, Arab, and African community in this regard. [end recording]

In his statement to MBC, 'Ali Taha said that Sudan is adopting various practical measures to build bridges of confidence in fighting terrorism.

As the Sudanese minister asserted, the Security Council is currently discussing a draft resolution demanding that the Sudanese Government hand over three people suspected of taking part in the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa last year.

[Begin Taha recording] We reiterate our commitment to and readiness for cooperation. But at the same time we asked the parties connected to this issue—Ethiopia where the incident happened and where an investigation of some of those suspected in the case is taking place and the Egyptian side, which is a primary party in this issue—for security and political cooperation among these three parties. [end recording]

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today accused Sudan and Iran of sheltering extremist groups, noting that apparently Sudan sees an interest in the presence of extremists on its territory.

#### Sudan Minister on Ethiopian Claims of Harboring Assassins

EA1901174396 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio  
Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At an unofficial meeting of members of the UN Security Council on 17 January, Foreign Minister 'Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha gave an account of the measures adopted by Sudan in connection with Ethiopia's claims with regard to the presence on Sudanese soil of suspects involved in the assassination attempt against the Egyptian head of state.

He said Khartoum expressed its strong condemnation of this attempt, its rejection of all forms of terrorism, and the use of violence. He stressed that Sudan is committed to world peace and the establishment of good-neighborly relations based on mutual respect.

He said the Sudanese Government has adopted several measures aimed at cooperation with Ethiopia within the provisions of the criminal extradition agreement. The Ethiopian regime, he said, has failed to supply information on the (?circumstances) surrounding the incident, despite Sudan's readiness to continue cooperation in search of the suspects if the required information is available. His excellency the minister discussed the results reached so far by the OAU conflict resolution mechanism on this matter.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha stated that Ethiopia has submitted to foreign pressure and has opened training camps for rebel forces.

**Sudan's Foreign Minister Returns From UN Security Council Meeting**

*EA2001192096 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha returned to Khartoum this morning from New York, where he addressed an unofficial meeting of the UN Security Council regarding claims by Ethiopia implicating Sudan in Egyptian President Mubarak's assassination attempt, and in connection with Sudan's complaint against Ethiopia for its attacks on Sudanese border areas.

Upon arrival, his excellency gave a media statement to the radio correspondent in which he affirmed that the Security Council did not condemn Sudan, despite the intense campaign to distort and to misrepresent facts about the deliberations of, and developments in, the Security Council. His excellency the minister said the measure taken by the Security Council is a preliminary step, and that the tendency in the council is now to cool matters regarding this problem, and to weigh the consequences of the coming measures, especially to nonaligned countries.

His excellency said he does not think there is any argument or justification for backing talk about imposing sanctions on Sudan, because Sudan's behavior does not contravene any of the UN's regulations. His excellency the foreign minister ruled out the possibility of imposing sanctions on Sudan for acts it has not carried out, as this would constitute a violation of the UN Charter.

Regarding Sudan's complaint to the Security Council about Ethiopia's attack on Sudanese territory, his excellency the foreign minister said the council had shown concern over the matter, and had summoned the ambassadors of both countries to inform them about the need to resolve this matter at a bilateral level, and to avoid military confrontation. The council also demanded that additional information be supplied by the UN departments. He added that Sudan will, for its part, also endeavor to supply additional evidence to the council regarding the situation in the region. He made it clear there is still a chance to hasten matters in the council, if Ethiopia fails to take the necessary steps toward withdrawing its troops from Sudanese territory, and normalizing the situation.

Regarding Ethiopia's demand to the Security Council that the perpetrators of the assassination attempt against the Egyptian president be extradited, the foreign minister said the visit gave an opportunity to clarify to the council Sudan's viewpoint on the dimensions of this complaint, and the steps taken by Sudan in this regard. He reiterated Sudan's firm stance in condemning

terrorism, referring to its constant participation in the regional, Arab, and African conferences which handle these issues.

His excellency the foreign minister said he had satisfactory talks aimed at increasing the understanding and awareness of Sudan's position. However, he said certain quarters always endeavor to jumble the cards. In his statement, the foreign minister talked about the phenomenon of double standards and said the Security Council should be a platform for international cooperation and should not used to impose the hegemony of influential and strong political powers. His excellency the foreign minister said the way these matters are handled confirms that these calls still need a response, and that the road is still very long.

**Sudan: SPLA's John Garang Predicts Collapse of Regime**

*NC2101222396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—John Garang, commander of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], has emphasized that he defends Sudan's unity and respects Egyptian interests. He said the River Nile is jointly owned by Egypt, Sudan, and neighboring countries. He expressed support for the construction of the Junqali Canal in southern Sudan because it serves the interests of the brotherly Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, who have deep-rooted relations.

In an interview to be published in the 22 January issue of *AL-AHRAM*, Garang says the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] has been fighting since 1983 for a united Sudan established on democracy, secularism, and justice among its citizens without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or sex. He noted that granting self-determination to the people of southern Sudan, which is their legitimate right, will lead to the establishment of a stronger and more cohesive Sudan.

On the current situation in southern Sudan, Garang noted that the SPLA has taken the initiative and is now in control of most of southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and all of the countryside, while the government forces only control major towns such as Nuba, Malakal, and Waw.

Garang denied that Egypt or Uganda have given military assistance to the SPLM. He said these claims are fabricated by the al-Bashir-al-Turabi government to justify its repeated defeats in the past two months by the Sudanese people.

Garang said the war in southern Sudan has been continuing, with neither side being able to resolve it. This is because the al-Bashir-al-Turabi government does not want to end this war, while the SPLA does not have all the necessary weapons to fight this war. He accused the Sudanese Government of recruiting some Ugandan rebels to fight on its side and also to work against the ruling regime in Uganda.

Garang predicted that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime will collapse because of the repeated military defeats in the south, the escalation of the opposition in the north, Sudan's bad relations with neighboring countries, and Sudan's sponsorship of international terrorism.

**GCC Denounces Events in Bahrain, Urges  
'Solidarity'**

*LD2001234396 Riyadh SPA in Arabic  
2245 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 20 Jan — The general secretariat of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] today issued a statement in which it denounced the regrettable events that happened in Bahrain. The statement says that the general secretariat has followed with great concern the regrettable events that took place in Bahrain recently, which aimed at instilling fear into peaceful people, damaging the economic interests of the Bahraini people, and undermining security and stability in the region.

The statement further says that in this context, the general secretariat strongly denounces the criminal acts of destruction at the Meridien hotel on Wednesday 17 January, and it also denounces all acts of subversion and destruction committed by misled people encouraged by rancorous foreign quarters. The general secretariat, given the principle of collective security, underlines the solidarity of the GCC member countries and their full support for the State of Bahrain in its facing up to the destructive schemes. [passage omitted]

The general secretariat urges the citizens of the GCC member countries to be vigilant and foil the plans for sowing the seeds of sedition and spread chaos in the region.

**Bahrain**

**Attacks, 'Sabotage' by Opposition Occurs in  
Manama**

*NC1901182396 Paris AFP in English  
1650 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, Jan 19 (AFP) — Opposition activists carried out a wave of arson attacks, bombings and other acts of "sabotage" in several Shiite areas of Bahrain, the authorities in the Gulf state announced on Friday [19 January].

An Interior Ministry spokesman, cited by the official Bahraini news agency GNA, said houses and cars had been set on fire in 38 arson attacks, gas canisters were exploded and protestors had taken part in illegal gatherings. "These acts of sabotage are part of a criminal plan to destabilize the country and hurt its economic interests," the spokesman said, vowing that the authorities would use all legal means at their disposal to end the trouble.

Bahraini security forces made arrests and defused gas canisters and homemade firebombs equipped with timers as the unrest spread through areas close to the

capital, including Diyah, Al-Dayr, Bilad al-Qadim, on Thursday, he added.

"About 50 people also tried at midnight to attack and set fire to a primary school at Bilad al-Qadim, but were repulsed by security guards there," he said.

The attacks were carried out by "members of extremist and terrorist organizations abroad that are exploiting mosques and religious sanctuaries to carry out their criminal plan," the official said.

Bahraini authorities said on Thursday that a home-made time bomb exploded at the Meridien hotel here during an international oil conference without causing any casualties. [passage omitted]

**Violence in Bahrain Follows House Arrest of  
Opposition Leader**

*NC2001182496 Paris AFP in English  
1749 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[Report by V.S. Venkatraman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, Jan 20 (AFP)— The Bahraini army said for the first time on Saturday that it was ready to intervene to end a wave of unrest which has shaken this Gulf archipelago.

The announcement came after a meeting between defence and interior ministry officials held in the wake of a rash of bombings and other incidents in the last two days.

"The Bahrain Defence Force has closely followed for some time the security situation in Bahrain, which faces a terrorist plot aimed at destabilizing the country and threatening the security of its citizens," said a defence ministry statement carried by the state news agency GNA.

The army was "ready to take the necessary military measures to end, in a permanent fashion, all acts which threaten the country's security, in conformity with the law, particularly the law on a state of siege."

The amir has the right to impose a state of siege in Bahrain, diplomats said.

The 8,000-strong army has never intervened in unrest which first broke out in December 1994 after the arrest of two clerics from the majority Shiite community. [passage omitted]

The two Arabic-language local papers in this archipelago of 350,000 inhabitants published pictures of burned cars, buses and electricity sub-stations on Saturday.



One of the papers, the AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, spoke of "many acts of sabotage and terrorism" and said the security forces had arrested several suspects.

Demonstrators are demanding the restitution of the constitution and parliament, suspended since 1975, and the release of prisoners arrested during the demonstrations. [passage omitted]

The latest incidents followed the detention of an opposition leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al Amir al-Jamri, after a homemade bomb exploded in a hotel during an international oil conference on Wednesday [20 January], without causing casualties.

(Opposition figures contacted from Nicosia said he was placed under house arrest on Saturday, although there was no official confirmation.

("The security situation has now plummeted after a few months of calm with many people injured and leading figures arrested," a spokesman for the Bahrain Freedom Movement said, adding: "The only way out of the crisis is for the government to return back to constitutional politics.") [previous two paragraphs in parentheses as received]

#### **Son Says Shiite Opposition Leader in Bahrain Arrested**

NC2201090296 Paris AFP in English  
0838 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 22 (AFP)—Bahraini authorities have arrested the main leader of the Shiite Muslim opposition, Shaykh 'Abd-al Amir al-Jamri, his son said Monday [22 January].

Mansur al-Jamri, who lives in exile in London, told AFP his father was arrested around midnight Sunday after security forces had kept watch for days over his parents' house in Bani Jamra, near the capital of Manama.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the arrest.

Shaykh al-Jamri was summoned three times last week to the interior ministry which warned him to stop using the mosques to "spread subversion," but he refused.

Bahrain on Saturday threatened to impose a state of siege and send in the army to crush the unrest which erupted in December 1994 with the arrest of Shaykh 'Ali Salman, a Shiite Muslim cleric who now lives in London.

Shaykh al-Jamri was arrested the first time in April for the troubles that broke out 13 months ago, but he was released in August with most of the other imprisoned opposition leaders.

#### **Stones Thrown at Foreign Embassy Compounds in Bahrain**

NC2201111496 Paris AFP in English  
1055 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 22 (AFP)—Assailants hurled stones at foreign compounds, including those housing Asians and Europeans, smashing windows despite increased security aimed at quelling a new wave of political unrest in Bahrain, diplomats and residents said Monday [22 January].

Several housing compounds were targeted by unidentified assailants, residents said. "I'm afraid to go out at night. I'm afraid there will be problems, people throwing stones," a German woman said.

Foreign diplomats also confirmed they had heard the first reports of stone throwing incidents in the unrest which erupted in December 1994 when a Shiite Muslim cleric was arrested.

The mainly Shiite opposition is calling for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975 as well as improved economic conditions.

#### **Bahrain Accuses Iran of 'Directing' Unrest**

NC2101090396 Paris AFP in English  
0837 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, Jan 21 (AFP) — Bahrain on Sunday [21 January] publicly accused Iran for the first time of fomenting and directing a wave of political unrest sweeping the Gulf Arab archipelago in the last 13 months.

"The acts of sabotage cannot be the simple acts of a few subversive elements. These acts are directed, organized and fomented at the right moment from abroad," the official AL-AYAAM newspaper said.

"These elements receive their instructions and directives from Qom (the Shiite Moslem holy city) in Iran," it said.

The accusations were supported "by the confessions of these elements who have been led astray and carried out recently acts of sabotage and explosions in various public places," the newspaper said.

Another official daily, AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, said "the plotters admitted before a judge that they were trained abroad to carry out violence and specified clearly the cities which sheltered them, such as Qom, where they learned how to sow death among their brothers in religion." [passage omitted]

**Bahraini Dailies See Iranian Involvement in  
Manama Riots**

JN2101151596 Manama WAKH in Arabic  
0700 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 21 Jan (WAKH)—Two Bahraini newspapers today stressed the need to maintain Bahrain's security, which should be maintained above all considerations. The two newspapers note the measures the state is taking to achieve this objective, which is desired by every sincere citizen who seeks to develop his country and maintain its stability and safety.

Under the headline: "What Now After What Was Hidden Has Been Exposed?" AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says that the riots and acts of sabotage are continuing in a concerted and escalating manner. They have manifested themselves in the terrorizing of defenseless people, setting fire to facilities, planting time bombs, making threats, inciting people in population centers, and gathering illegally to spread terror and strike at stability and prosperity.

The paper expresses the fear that this will continue unless we put an end to it and prevent it from spreading, because it harms the people's interests and the homeland's growth and security. This is unacceptable to anyone or any citizen who loves his homeland and cares about its stability and security.

The paper adds: We realize the gravity of these events, which are flagrantly and tendentiously being instigated by outside elements that do not want this country to proceed on the road of security and prosperity—a road that is promising with development and progress as a prelude to entering the 21st century with full force and firm steps, with all its technological and scientific facts and requirements.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ adds: The people condemn these incidents, whose gravity is escalating. They openly and clearly support the security bodies in confronting the perpetrators and those backing them, as well as those who are inciting them and seeking to fan the flames of sedition. The paper stresses that the masses are required not only to support the security bodies, but also to move ahead of them to build a strong wall on which all the evil schemes that are alien to our society will founder.

The paper says: We receive thousands of telephone calls and letters each day condemning what is happening and demanding that everyone should close ranks and stand in one line to confront these incidents, which are aimed at dealing the homeland a deadly blow and ending its development and stability.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ continues: The alert and educated people of Bahrain are well aware that the political masks of the saboteurs are nothing more than sabotage masks. The saboteurs have another agenda behind these masks—an agenda that is being dictated to them by their leaders from within Bahrain as well as from the outside, who are instructing them on how to harm their country although they are only harming themselves.

The paper adds: After monitoring all these escalating incidents, it is evident that all the conspirators have taken a serious turn in which they are using the tools of death taught to them by their masters. The paper notes that they themselves confessed to the investigating judge that they were trained on the outside in perpetrating acts of violence and death. They have even clearly named the cities that gave them shelter, including Qom. These cities taught them how to plant death among people and amid their brothers in religion and creed in markets, public places, and populated areas as if they wanted to harvest the people's heads and to destroy the land.

The paper adds: Let them wake up from a fit of terrorism that has overtaken them before they wake up to the clear fact that they are isolated from these people who will confront them first and foremost to maintain their security, stability, and prosperity.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: In light of the current situation and for the sake of preserving our country and maintaining its stability, property, people, and land, what is now required is a unified stand that exposes and isolates the owners of these sabotage schemes and those promoting or supporting them.

The newspaper AL-AYYAM says: Our national responsibility dictates that we stand together in support of this homeland to overcome the confusion and sedition others have tried to sow for the sake of achieving their goals. This is only part of returning part of the gratitude the sincere citizens owe this homeland.

The paper notes that the state has dealt prudently with the acts of incitement, riots, and sabotage, hoping that some would return to their senses and stop harming the homeland and its citizens. However, what we as citizens see today are riots and acts of sabotage, arson, and destruction that have gone beyond bounds. These acts are affecting the citizen and targeting his livelihood. The paper says these acts cannot merely be the work of some reckless people, but are directed, organized, timed, and fed from the outside.

The paper adds that this group, which is hostile to the homeland and aims at spreading terror among the people, has nothing to do with this homeland. It is receiving instructions and guidance from Qom in Iran,

according to confessions by the misguided ones who recently carried out bombings and other acts of sabotage in public places.

The paper commends the stringent and decisive measures taken by the state against these acts of sabotage. It says these measures aim at protecting public and private property, including mosques and houses of worship, which some are trying to exploit for other purposes far from religion and its tolerant principles.

The paper rejects claims that the state closed mosques and houses of worship, stressing that such claims are rejected in part and parcel. The paper says: All houses of worship and mosques in the country are open for religious freedom in an atmosphere of security and peace of mind. The paper notes that the measures taken by the state in this regard are merely for the protection of the sanctity of mosques and houses of worship from desecration by a group that is trying to exploit them to achieve their goals by storing sabotage tools, instigating sedition, and disrupting security and stability.

#### **Bahrain Defense Force Prepared To End Security Violations**

*LD2001133096 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic  
1210 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Manamah, 20 Jan (KUNA) — A military source at the Defense Ministry here today reaffirmed the preparedness of his country's defense force to perform its security role in the service of the homeland by making and taking the necessary military arrangements and measures in order to put an end to all acts that violate security. WAKH quoted the source as saying that this would be in implementation of the orders of the leadership and in accordance with the laws of the State of Bahrain and, particularly, the martial law.

This came in a statement that was issued after a meeting of Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and the commander general of the Bahraini Defense Force, at the General Command headquarters today, with Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and general staff deputy commander; Shaykh Salman Bin-Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Defense Ministry under secretary; and a number of Defense Force senior officers on the occasion of new promotions and transfers in the Defense Force.

The source added that the Bahrain Defense Force has been closely watching the security situation which the State of Bahrain has been witnessing for some time now, as well as the terroristic plan Bahrain has been confronting, which aims at disturbing stability, violating

security, and threatening the safety of citizens. He reaffirmed the General Command's total support for the Interior Ministry in connection with the efforts it is making to maintain security in the country under the umbrella of civil law. The source called on the people of Bahrain to cooperate with the police and public security forces against the strangers [dukhala'], traitors, and those trampling on the homeland's stability, stressing that that is the number one responsibility of every loyal citizen. [passage omitted]

#### **Bahraini Papers Urge 'Toughness' To Deal With Recent 'Acts'**

*JN2001095696 Manama WAKH in Arabic  
0640 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 Jan (WAKH)—Two Bahraini papers have stressed that the riots and acts of sabotage that occurred in Bahrain were not individual acts, but part of a conspiracy against the country and its people. The two papers stressed the need to mete out the severest punishment to the perpetrators of these acts.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says: There is no reason or justification now to remain silent over these recurring acts. It is no longer acceptable to face these childish acts except with toughness and deterrence, and without meting out the severest punishment to every reckless individual who seeks to infringe on the country and its stability and to frighten the peaceful citizens and residents. It is not a question of a group of irresponsible young people who do not realize what they are doing. It has been established beyond any doubt that there are domestic and foreign hidden hands behind these frivolous young people that move them and set the plans of chaos and sabotage for them.

The paper adds: True, Bahrain's society is that of a single family and it is necessary to deal with those dissident elements with wisdom and logic and to give them a chance to repent and return to the correct path. However, our patience is running out and such things became unbearable after these people were given one chance after the other, and after those who deviated from the national unanimity were treated well and with tolerance and good feelings. But it seems that this good treatment was fruitless.

The paper stresses: Nothing should stop us from continuing the march of development and construction, because the entire world is now engaged in a feverish race to create new job opportunities and attract investors and capitals in order to improve living standards.

AL-AYYAM says: What happens in Bahrain these days does not represent individual acts, but a conspiracy



against this country and its people. It also indicates there are hidden hands, moved by foreign quarters, that plan and give instructions and orders to a group of deceived people who sold their allegiance to parties other than their country.

The paper stresses: This country, with its educated people who are aware of what goes on around them, must have their say. They must tell the truth about this country and its people. They must also shoulder their historic responsibility toward the current events and stand as a single, united front to confront this devastating violence.

The paper adds: Everyone must now be concerned about what is happening. This is a premeditated scheme aimed at harming us all. We cannot place the resources of our homeland in the hands of a group of people who do not know the meaning of responsibility. These are acts of fanaticism and terrorism, and we cannot call them anything else. The citizens of this country, who learned from the lessons of destruction that were inflicted on other states and societies, hope to see things that would make them more confident about their children and property.

AL-AYYAM stresses that toughness with those who perpetrated these subversive acts can put things right, put an end to the growing acts of sabotage, and abort the schemes of the parties that are conspiring against this country.

### Oman

#### Iran's Vice President Arrives in Oman for Official Visit

LD2001120396 Tehran IRNA in English  
0835 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan. 20, IRNA — Iranian Vice- President for Executive Affairs Mohammad Hashemi, heading a high-level politico-economic delegation, arrived in Muscat Friday night [19 January] on an official visit to Oman.

Upon arrival, he was greeted by advisor to the Omani sultan, Shabib Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, and minister of commerce and industry and chairman of the joint Iran-Oman economic commission Makbul Bin- 'Ali Bin-Sultan.

During his visit, Hashemi is expected to meet Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and submit a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran. He is also due to confer with senior Omani officials on bilateral relations and ways to expand mutual cooperation.

### Saudi Arabia

#### Statement Issued on Meeting of Saudi-Yemeni Commission

LD1901142496 Riyadh SPA in Arabic  
1210 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 19 Jan (SPA) — The Yemeni side at the meeting of the Saudi-Yemeni Joint Commission for the Demarcation of the Maritime Border left Riyadh today. It was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by the chairman and members of the Saudi side in the commission, and by the Yemeni ambassador to the kingdom.

The commission issued the following press statement:

#### Press Statement:

The Saudi-Yemeni Joint Commission for the Demarcation of the Maritime Border, set up in accordance with Article Four of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two fraternal countries on 27 Ramadan 1415H., corresponding to 26 February 1995, held its first round at the Palace of Conferences in the City of Riyadh 24-27 Sha'ban 1416H., corresponding to 15-18 January 1996.

During this round the commission reviewed items on its agenda. A true fraternal spirit and common understanding prevailed at the meetings, which indicates the depth of Saudi-Yemeni relations under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency Lieutenant-General 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Republic — may God protect them both.

The two sides agreed on the bases and actions of the Commission. The minutes of the meeting were signed by the chairmen of the two sides — Ambassador Dr. Muhammad Bin 'Umar Madani, leader of the Saudi side, and Legal Advisor Husayn Bin-'Ali al-Hubayshi, leader of the Yemeni side.

It was decided to hold the second round of talks, God willing, in the Yemeni Republic on 29.10.1416H., corresponding to 18 March 1996.

The Yemeni side gave deep thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality it received during its visit to its second homeland — the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi side said it is looking forward to the second round of talks and its visit to the fraternal Yemeni Republic.



## Yemen

### Yemen: Salih Speech Touches on Eritrea Conflict, Saudi Ties

JN2001212696 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Television  
Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jan 96

["Text" of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's speech to Yemeni people on eve of Ramadan in Sanaa—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

God be praised, last year our people made important strides in the field of development. Contracts were signed with many investment companies in the fields of gas and oil, on the free zone in Aden, and in other development fields.

Moreover, our people, proceeding with implementation of the program of comprehensive economic, financial, and administrative reforms, have begun to put themselves on the right track in order to quickly move toward construction and comprehensive progress.

I actually feel the pain and the suffering of citizens in general, and of those who have limited incomes in particular, due to the increasing cost of living. Therefore, I call on the government to intensify its efforts to guarantee accuracy in implementing the measures of economic, financial, and administrative reforms, so that the burdens shouldered by citizens will not be in vain, but will begin to bear the anticipated fruit in the near future. Consequently, the people's suffering will not last long.

I have instructed the government to reconsider the recent increase in the price of diesel fuel, so that we can encourage farmers to expand the planting of agricultural produce as a prelude to reducing produce imports and to meeting our needs. Since 1984, we have succeeded in covering our local consumption of fruit and vegetables from our own agricultural produce. We do not see anything preventing us from success in attaining self-sufficiency from locally produced foods with the passage of time. [passage omitted]

Brother citizens: At a time when the march of construction began steadily making its way toward translating the national goals and the objectives of comprehensive development in the homeland, our country was surprised by the regrettable and unexpected Eritrean aggression on the Yemeni island of al-Hanish al-Kabir. This aggression has imposed a new challenge on our people, which requires us—parties, organizations, and individuals—to further close our ranks in order to confront it with the spirit of national responsibility and wisdom. This stems

from what the Republic of Yemen has constantly emphasized in terms of its concern about peace, security, and stability; the renunciation of all forms of force and violence; and the resolution of differences through dialogue and peaceful negotiations.

Our country will continue to adhere to this sound policy and show interest in resolving differences with Eritrea over the maritime borders by peaceful means and on a just basis through commitment to the seas law agreement and the bases of international law.

It is an opportunity for us to reiterate our call on the brothers in Eritrea to reassess their stands, resort to reason, and begin to remove the traces of their aggression on the island of al-Hanish al-Kabir and return the situation there to what it used to be before 15 December 1995.

We also call on them to sit at the negotiating table in response to the mediation efforts and good offices of many brothers and friends in confirmation of good intentions and in affirmation of the desire to safeguard the close historical relations and good neighborliness between both neighbors, and also in confirmation of the concern about security, stability, and safety and the freedom of international navigation in the Red Sea area, especially since today's world can never approve of rewarding the aggressor or accept the occupation of others' territory and the imposition of a fait accompli by force.

What calls for pride and satisfaction is the fact that our country's relations with its brothers and friends are enhanced every day on firm and solid foundations based on mutual respect, fruitful cooperation, and the achievement of common interests. We are also happy at what our country's relations have achieved in terms of growing development with its brothers and neighbors in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, led by the brothers in Saudi Arabia.

We take this opportunity to express satisfaction with the work of the joint committees formed by Yemen and Saudi Arabia in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed in late Ramadan last year. We stress our interest in the fact that the fraternal dialogue on resolving the border issue between both countries should translate the aspirations of both fraternal and neighboring peoples in terms of consolidating the relations of fraternity and dialogue between them and achieving welfare and prosperity for them in a way that guarantees security, stability, and peace in the region. [passage omitted]

**Iraq Announces Acceptance of Talks on Limited Oil Sales**

JN2001102996 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
0930 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—Iraq announced its acceptance of a call by the UN secretary general for dialogue with the UN General Secretariat on the issue of oil sales for humanitarian purchases.

The acceptance was contained in a letter sent by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to the UN secretary general last night, informing him of the Iraqi Government's acceptance of his offer.

In the letter, the deputy prime minister said: I am waiting for word from you about the place and date of the dialogue.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received a letter from UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali on this subject on 18 January.

In his letter, the UN secretary general said: I am writing to express my growing concern over the reports submitted to me by UN agencies on the aggravated human suffering of the Iraqi people.

The secretary general added: Within the context of the ongoing contacts between us and based on the authorization granted to the UN secretary general by UN Security Council Resolution 986 of 1995, I urge Iraq to enter into dialogue with the UN General Secretariat to reach a mutual agreement on arrangements to implement a formula for Iraq to sell oil for humanitarian purchases.

Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali hoped the Iraqi Government would respond favorably to this call.

**Iraq Asks UN To Prevent U.S. Confiscation of Frozen Assets**

JN1901203996 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jan 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf made a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in response to a statement made by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno on 18 January 1996. In her statement, Janet Reno said that the U.S. Government will dispose of the frozen Iraqi assets at U.S. banks and that a record of cases that will be presented by individuals and companies in the United States demanding reparations from Iraq was opened on Thursday to pay these claims from the frozen Iraqi assets in the United States.

The minister said that the U.S. attorney general's announcement contrasts the most basic rules of international law and the principles of national laws. Besides, the minister said, this contravenes even the UN Security Council resolutions. This is because those resolutions clearly state that the claims for reparations by U.S. individuals and companies, if any, must be addressed to the UN reparations commission set up by the UN Security Council if direct damages are claimed. He added: But if the claims are related to pre-2 August 1990 obligations, then they will be settled in accordance with the terms of the contracts on which the obligations are based, be that through arbitration by mutual consent or through specialized national courts after Iraq is given the right to legitimate defense before those courts. This is a right guaranteed by international law and national laws alike.

He added that the resolutions imposed by Washington on the UN Security Council after 2 August 1990 under which Iraq's assets at foreign banks were frozen, implicitly bind the states that have taken measures to freeze Iraqi assets according to those resolutions not to dispose of the Iraqi assets except according to those resolutions. This means that those states must take the required measures to maintain our assets until the blockade is lifted or until it is agreed to release them for humanitarian purposes, such as purchasing medicine and food for the Iraqi people.

The foreign minister explained that the U.S. Government has not only blocked the use of our funds for purposes of purchasing medicine and food, contrary to what some states with frozen Iraqi assets have done, but is also trying now to seize and confiscate Iraq's assets, in complete disregard for the UN Charter and the rules of international law and even the UN Security Council resolutions.

In his statement, the foreign minister stressed that it is illegal for the U.S. Government to dispose of the frozen Iraqi assets, and that the Iraqi Government holds the U.S. Government responsible for all the ensuing harm that will be caused by this measure to the rights of the Iraqis and Iraq, whether that be to the original Iraqi funds and assets, or the interests that are due or will be due. The Iraqi Government also demands that the UN Security Council take immediate measures to prevent the U.S. Government from confiscating the Iraqi assets that have been frozen at U.S. banks according to the UN Security Council resolutions. The UN Security Council should immediately take the necessary measures to safeguard those funds by all available means.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said that the Iraqi Government will take the required legal measures it deems appropriate against the U.S. Govern-

ment's act of robbery and expropriation against our assets at U.S. banks and financial institutions.

# **Iraqi Paper Says U.S. Move Aims To Impede Positive Change With UN**

*JN2101130196 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
0702 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH describes the U.S. attorney general's statement on the use of frozen Iraqi assets in U.S. banks and financial institutions robbery and expropriation by the Clinton administration against the Iraqi deposits in broad daylight and before the eyes of United Nations and the international community.

AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an analysis today that this is a new U.S. aggression against Iraq and is state terrorism. This is not only because this act contravenes international law and the principles of national laws, but also because it blatantly contravenes the UN Security Council resolutions under which Iraqi assets at foreign banks were frozen. Those resolutions define the mechanism and methods of paying reparation to those claiming direct damages, whether they are Americans or other nationalities.

The paper explains that the most significant aspect of this immoral U.S. action is that it shows most explicitly that the U.S. Administration's behavior and decisions are still governed by the arrogance of power. In addition, it clearly indicates not only the extent of U.S. disregard for international laws and resolutions but also its disregard of international public opinion.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration persistently acts according to the law of the jungle and the right of the strong to confiscate others' property, assets, and rights without fear of accountability or punishment. The paper says: This is the law of arrogant force that knows no principles or law except the law of might and exploitation. In its political, trade, and financial international relations, the United States is acting according to this law.

AL-THAWRAH adds that it is paradoxical in this illegitimate U.S. behavior that the U.S. Administration itself was behind the issuance of the UN Security Council resolutions under which Iraqi assets were frozen and reparations demanded. The UN Security Council resolutions under which Iraqi assets at foreign banks were frozen bind the states that adopt measures freezing Iraqi funds not to use those funds except according to those resolutions. The resolution on reparations clearly indicates that the compensation claims by individuals and

companies must be addressed to the UN Compensation Commission, not to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The paper says that this U.S. action is an attempt to contain the positive development of the relationship between Iraq and the United Nations, especially after the decision of the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to respond positively to the UN Security Council's call [for dialogue on oil sales]. The paper says that this unjustifiable action is a serious precedent in international relations and can open a wide avenue for anyone who wants to blunder and expropriate others' deposits from banks at different pretexts.

Concluding its analysis, AL-THAWRAH says: It is Iraq's legitimate right to denounce this hostile U.S. action and to hold the U.S. Administration responsible for any harm that might affect Iraq's rights. In accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, it is also Iraq's right to demand that the UN Security Council take immediate and adequate measures to prevent the U.S. Government from confiscating the frozen Iraqi assets in its banks. Undoubtedly, any procrastination or indifference on the part of the UN Security Council toward this U.S. behavior will encourage the United States to persist in its aggression, arrogance, and illegal actions toward the entire international community and not only toward Iraq.

# **Saddam Husayn Receives France's Raimond, Delegation**

*JN2001161796 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
1555 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Jean-Bernard Raimond, former French foreign minister, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the French National Assembly, and head of the French National Assembly delegation, currently on a visit to Iraq to acquaint itself with the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the continuation of blockade.

Jean-Bernard Raimond conveyed French President Jacques Chirac's greetings to President Saddam Husayn. He also expressed his happiness and that of the accompanying delegation at visiting Iraq and meeting with President Saddam Husayn.

President Saddam Husayn spoke to the guest delegation about relations between Iraq and France and the social, cultural, and health aspects of life which prevailed in Iraq before the blockade, and how they have been affected as a result of the embargo and its continuation.



Jean-Bernard Raimond and his accompanying delegation expressed their appreciation and respect for great leader President Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi people.

**Iraqi Minister Discusses Blockade With French Delegation**

JN2001152996 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
1400 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak met with former French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond and the delegation accompanying him today.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the continuation of the blockade, the health problems, and the disruption of humanitarian services rendered to citizens which were caused by this blockade.

The French charge d'affaires attended the meeting.

**French Delegation in Baghdad Welcomes Iraq-UN Oil-for-Food Deal**

NC2101193896 Paris AFP in English  
1903 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan 21 (AFP) — A French team assessing the humanitarian situation in Iraq on Sunday [21 January] welcomed the government's decision to discuss implementing a UN resolution allowing it to export oil to raise money for food and medicine.

"We are in favour of this dialogue," said Jean-Bernard Raimond, the head of the parliamentary team and a former French foreign minister.

Baghdad announced Friday that it was ready to hold talks with the United Nations on the oil-for-food offer, which would allow it to sell one billion dollars of oil per quarter under tight international supervision.

Iraq has until now refused to implement Resolution 986, adopted last April, on the grounds it is an affront to its sovereignty.

The French team arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday to assess the humanitarian situation in Iraq, which has been subject to crippling UN sanctions since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It is the first mission of its kind to visit Iraq with the backing of the French government since the 1991 Gulf War.

"It is a very interesting mission. We saw many things, we had many interviews with officials, and we learned

a lot about Iraq and the situation here," Raimond said, who met Saturday with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The team was to leave Iraq on Monday.

**Jordanian King Sends Ramadan Congratulations to Saddam Husayn**

JN2101165496 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic  
1600 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Iraqi newspapers today, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received a cable from King Husayn of Jordan on the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. King Husayn wished the Iraqi president and people sincerest fraternal sentiments on this occasion.

**Iraqi Trade Minister on Jordan, UN Embargo**

JN1901133096 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic  
20-26 Jan 96 pp 13, 31

[Interview with Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih by Faysal Malkawi in Amman — date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Malkawi] How would you assess Jordanian-Iraqi relations?

[Salih] Relations between Iraq and sisterly Jordan are strong. They were established many years ago, in 1974 to be more specific, and have been growing since then. Before that time, Iraqi-Jordanian relations were rather limited. Under the embargo, Iraq viewed sisterly Jordan as the main gateway for Iraqi trade exchange, whether from Jordan or via Jordan. Despite the harshness of the embargo, under which Iraq no longer exported oil to other countries, trade and economic relations with Jordan have remained active.

[Malkawi] Were bilateral relations affected by Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan?

[Salih] On the Iraqi side, relations with sisterly Jordan were not adversely affected. As a matter of fact, President Saddam Husayn's instructions were aimed at further bolstering these relations in all fields, but this is up to Jordan. I assure you that on our side, there is nothing to prevent us from fostering and maintaining relations with sisterly Jordan.

[Malkawi] How are Iraqi-Jordanian economic and trade relations at present?

[Salih] At present, trade and economic relations between Iraq and Jordan are continuing, and are in line with Security Council resolutions. Iraq continues to import goods via Jordan and through the Jordanian market. There are no obstacles on the part of the Jordanian



brothers with regard to allowing the entry of goods that the Security Council allows into Iraq.

[Malkawi] Recent reports say there is a possibility of reducing trade exchange between Jordan and Iraq.

[Salih] Our brothers in Jordan said that they do not wish to close the Jordanian-Iraqi border. As for us, I can safely say that we have no intention of closing the border with Jordan either; on the contrary, President Saddam Husayn is more inclined lately to increase the scope of economic relations with Jordan within their general strategic framework, and to give preference and priority to Jordanian businessmen in trade and industrial exchange.

[Malkawi] What about the quantity of oil that Jordan imports from Iraq?

[Salih] There is no change in Iraq's decision regarding supplying Jordan with oil. As a matter of fact, the quantity of Iraqi oil to be sent to Jordan for this year is larger than that of last year. Agreements in this respect were signed with Jordan, and our position has not changed. The same applies to cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, because we consider Jordan a principal economic partner not only under the current circumstances, but also for the future when the embargo is lifted. As instructed by President Saddam Husayn, Iraq has decided to continue to offer 50 percent of the oil supplied to Jordan free of charge. We do not say this in anticipation of gratitude, but because this is Iraq's duty toward sisterly Jordan.

[Malkawi] For some time, there has been much talk on the convening of an Iraqi opposition conference in Amman. How does the Iraqi Government and leadership view the convening of such a conference?

[Salih] No doubt, Iraq views any talk regarding its domestic situation as open interference in its domestic affairs. Any such talk conflicts with the relations of good neighborliness, the UN Charter, and all international conventions, which stipulate that world states must respect the wishes and choices of the peoples of other states and translate this into noninterference in their domestic affairs. No state has the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of any other state, or to attempt to chart a political, economic, or social program for it. The charting of such a program is the prerogative of the people and leadership in question. We in Iraq believe that any interference from any party in formulating domestic Iraqi policy is open interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

[Malkawi] So, can you explain to us the position of the Iraqi Government and leadership toward the Iraqi opposition and its programs?

[Salih] We do not recognize the so-called Iraqi opposition, because such opposition must emanate from inside Iraq. Opposition factions should not be connected to external powers, or be manipulated by them. One of the characteristics of the Iraqi opposition factions is their connections to the U.S. and British intelligence services, which finance them. This is the most prominent characteristic of the Iraqi opposition. But I would like to say that the West in particular and the world in general are well aware that the leaders of the so-called Iraqi opposition are petty "lackeys" who enjoy no support inside Iraq. The few among them known to average Iraqis are persons who embezzled public funds and plundered food supplies while the people were suffering under the sanctions regime. The Iraqi opposition is being used by foreign powers to plan harmful schemes against Iraq and consecrate the foreigners' control of the region.

[Malkawi] If an Iraqi opposition conference were to convene in Amman, will you view such an eventuality as interference in Iraq's domestic affairs?

[Salih] In principle, that is absolutely correct. If Iraq were to aid the opposition factions of another country, such aid would be interference in the domestic affairs of that country.

[Malkawi] Talk nowadays revolves around federation and confederation in Iraq, which are being promoted by some Iraqi opposition factions. Where do you stand on these proposals?

[Salih] I have already said that we do not recognize the so-called Iraqi opposition. I have explained the position of the Iraqi Government and leadership toward this issue. I would like to add that we are categorically opposed to a confederation or federation, because we believe that the federation proposal being currently promoted is aimed at partitioning Iraq and the Arab homeland. Such a proposal is detrimental to Jordan and the Arab states, because the rationale used to justify the need for a federation in Iraq exists in all Arab states. The demographic makeup of Iraq, which consists of Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkomans, and Christians, and reflects religious and ethnic diversity, exists in all Arab states. Hence, the use of the demographic peculiarities in Iraq to partition the country is unacceptable to the Iraqi leadership and people. This plan is being promoted by the United States and Britain to perpetuate Iraq's weakness, control it, and prevent it from using its material and human resources in its quest for progress. Additionally, I would like to assert that since the inception of Babylonia, including monarchical rule and the Republican rule instituted by the 17 July revolution, there has been no secession in Iraq on ethnic or religious grounds. Iraq has remained a unified country throughout

history. All faiths, sects, and denominations in Iraq cherish national unity. They made contributions to the Iraq-Iran war and the Mother of Battles. They have continued to act within the context of a unified and indivisible Iraq. This reflects the Iraqi individual's sense of belonging to Iraqi territory.

[Malkawi] Let us continue to discuss Iraqi-Jordanian relations and their development these days to ask you about the recent statements by Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf against Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabarti. Observers describe these statements as the first Iraqi attack against Jordanian policy on Iraq. Against what backdrop were these statements made and why now?

[Salih] The truth is that Iraq greatly respects and appreciates the fraternal Jordanian people. Iraq does not interfere at all in their domestic affairs and has never done so throughout the various stages of its protracted relations with Jordan. Jordanian Foreign Minister Brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabarti recently made many statements against Iraq and its people to promote the federation plan and to exploit the Iraqi people's tribulation for the same purpose. Iraq continues to reject this plan for political reasons. Since al-Kabarti's statements actually were not to alleviate the Iraqi people's sufferings but to indirectly impose hegemony on them, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf made this statement to explain that we in Iraq are an independent people; that we have an independent national will, that the Iraqi people are the only party to decide on the political, economic, and social system in a democratic manner; and that the Iraqis had done so in the referendum. Also, Iraq rejects all attempts to promote any plan that seeks to partition Iraq and impose tutelage on it. That's why Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf made this clarification because we are eager to maintain and develop our relations with Jordan in all fields.

We in Iraq emphasize that we are an independent and sovereign state and decide on what we want by ourselves as the brothers in Jordan do for their own affairs without us in Iraq having the right to interfere in their domestic affairs. We, in Iraq also believe that no country has the right to interfere in Jordan's domestic affairs, whichever this country might be. This is the purport of the Iraqi message to Jordan. We hope that relations with Jordan will remain solid as this is what our leadership wants. For our part, we have nothing against fraternal Jordan.

[Malkawi] Are there any Iraqi-Jordanian contacts concerning the Iraqi opposition in Jordan?

[Salih] We did not hold any contacts because the conference is not supposed to be held here and the issue

of a federation should not have been discussed because we view this as interference in our domestic affairs. As I told you, we hope that each country takes care of its own affairs within its own national policies and will, and that the people in each country decide their fate and their political, economic, and social systems, which should not be imposed on them by any other party.

[Malkawi] What is your comment on the recent seizure of so-called missile systems en route to Baghdad at the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman?

[Salih] We hope that such unfounded issues will not be raised. They neither serve Iraq nor Jordan. Maintaining and tightening the blockade against Iraq can be harmful to Jordan also. On the other hand, lifting the blockade will serve Jordan and its people. Therefore, I can say that if such issues are raised and used in goodwill or otherwise, they will constitute a justification for maintaining the blockade.

The United States and Britain possess and manufacture nuclear and banned weapons that Iraq has been forced to destroy and actually destroyed.

The material aspect of the Iraqi armament program has been removed. However, other states that are imposing the blockade on Iraq have such armament programs.

[Malkawi] How influential is Husayn Kamil inside the Iraqi ruling institutions.

[Salih] I want to say that in his positions and jobs, Husayn Kamil derived his power from President Saddam Husayn. When Husayn Kamil defected, he was finished and became powerless. He does not have any influence or support inside Iraq or anywhere else. He was only an official whom the president appreciated, trusted, and gave important responsibilities. However, when he defected, his capabilities and power disappeared. You can ask any ordinary Iraqi citizen and he will tell you who Husayn Kamil is now. The information he provided after his defection changed nothing in Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council.

[Malkawi] What about the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's two daughters with him?

[Salih] He left the country in an official mission to Bulgaria. He managed to deceive the president's two daughters through that mission until he left the Iraqi territory and declared his position.

[Malkawi] Let us move to the blockade which has been imposed on Iraq since 1990 and the U.S. insistence on maintaining it despite Iraq's declared commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions. In your view, what is required from Iraq to have the blockade lifted?

[Salih] The United States wants to further starve Iraq and its people. The justifications of the blockade no longer exist because Iraq has complied with the UN Security Council resolutions. However, the blockade is still in place because the United States wants it. Through a resolution issued in October 1992, the United States prevented Iraq from buying food and medicine. Iraq had benefited from Paragraph 20 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 to use the frozen assets to import foodstuffs and medicines. Iraq used those frozen assets in 1991 and 1992 to buy food and medicines. However, the United States issued Resolution 778 in October 1992. Since then, Iraq has been denied that right.

But if the United States, Britain, and other quarters are honest in their alleged willingness to help the Iraqi people, then we call on the United States to immediately release all our frozen assets, which amount to \$4 billion, to save the Iraqi people and sick persons from death as a result of the severe scarcity of food and medicine. However, we know that the U.S. objective behind the continued blockade is purely political. In addition to starving the Iraqi people so that the United States and the West would be able to dominate Iraq, there are political objectives behind the U.S. resolutions against Iraq, including Resolution 986. Iraq would not refuse to export oil in return for purchasing food and medicines provided that Iraq distributes them within its political will and without any state of separation being imposed, as Resolution 986 does in northern Iraq. It separates the northern region from the rest of the homeland and interferes in Iraq's domestic affairs. However, the United States wants to take advantage of the Iraqi people's suffering to show that the Iraqi Government is responsible for their suffering rather than the U.S. and UN Security Council resolutions that the United States issues whenever it wants to extend the blockade against the Iraqi people.

[Malkawi] Where do the other UN Security Council member states stand on this issue?

[Salih] France, Russia, and China have positive stands and work to lift the blockade. However, the Special Commission, which receives instructions from the United States, always raises flimsy issues and pretexts for the United States to use in pressuring the other states into maintaining the blockade. However, at the same time, there is currently intense pressure by those states on the United States to lift the blockade. Iraq left Kuwait and recognized it and its border. Iraq completely destroyed its armament programs. If the inspection teams find a missing or an extra paper in those programs, this does not give the United States the right to keep 20 million Iraqis hostage to its will, especially since the

United States controls and steers the decisions of the inspection teams.

[Malkawi] Will Iraq continue its cooperation with the inspection teams in the future?

[Salih] In his address on 6 January 1996, President Saddam Husayn indicated that Iraq will cooperate with the inspection teams and will present to them all the facilities in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions so as to strip the Special Commission of the political purposes that are being used to prolong the blockade against Iraq. This is despite the fact that the Special Commission knows that everything is over as far as the Iraqi armament programs are concerned. However, our continued cooperation with it is intended to expose it before world public opinion and to rally more support by the friends and brothers to put more pressure on the United States and Britain and their supporters to stop harming the Iraqi people through the continued blockade.

[Malkawi] What about the situation of the Iraqi Army?

[Salih] I can say that the Iraqi Army is as strong as it was, if not stronger, in all its components to defend the national soil and the Iraqi leadership and people. It is ready to defend Iraq against any aggression. The Iraqi army is balanced. Five and a half years of unprecedented, complete blockade have proven that the Iraqi army is strong and united behind its leadership and leader.

[Malkawi] Are there new Iraqi initiatives toward Arab reconciliation?

[Salih] Iraq officially announced its readiness for reconciliation with all Arab countries without exception in the context of the Arab nation's pan-Arab interests.

[Malkawi] What about the latest developments in Iraqi-Iranian relations?

[Salih] There are negotiations between the two countries. Iraq laid down conditions for normalization with Iran. Iraq is not against the normalization of its relations with Iran.

#### **Iraqi Opposition Figure Views Talks in Syria**

JN2001170496 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI  
in Arabic 19 Jan 96 pp 18, 19

[Telephone interview with Mish'an al-Juburi, "known Iraqi opposition leader and former ally of Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam Husayn's son-in-law" by Walid Abu-Zahr; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-Zahr] What topics did you discuss in Damascus?



[Al-Juburi] During the meeting with [Syrian] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, we agreed that Saddam Husayn's continuation in power threatens the unity of the homeland and the people.

We noted that Syria is fully aware of the situation in Iraq and the need to find a way out of the dilemma. The Syrian brothers said they are eager to safeguard Iraq's unity, which is a strategic issue for them. For our part, we stressed that we will placate no one with respect to our country's unity, which is not a business venture to be bargained on.

We asked the Syrian brothers to unofficially open the borders with Iraq to facilitate contact with the Iraqi people, as a contribution toward ending their tribulation. Reports we receive from Iraq mention that starvation, illness and sufferings have become unbearable. Those who are exploiting the starvation of the Iraqi people and who believe that starving them is the only way to topple Saddam harbor illusions. We do not support the view that perpetuating the embargo will accomplish the same work as the opposition. Our people carried out heroic deeds before the embargo—not after it was imposed—such as the 1991 upheaval, the repeated coups, and the attempts to eliminate Saddam Husayn, some of which were revealed by brother Husayn Kamil. Once, three young men, including a noncommissioned officer, pointed their guns at Saddam, but he rushed to his armored car for protection. Husayn Kamil also told me that many soldiers tried to wipe out Saddam Husayn, and that the most important operations took place in 1990 and 1991.

The situation in Iraq is very complex, and the Syrian brothers have paid attention to our request and are carefully studying it. There are positive signs in this direction, that is, to unofficially open the borders with Iraq. Many opposition parties outside Iraq could object to such a step because they have no links with those who are in Iraq, or because they believe that any contact with the Iraqi regime could help Saddam remain in power. We disagree with this view.

[Abu-Zahr] What is Syria's position on the Iraqi opposition?

[Al-Juburi] Syria's role will be wider, and the Iraqi opposition's role will be larger. I, along with brother Salah Ahmad al-'Ali, brother Wafiq al-Samarra'i, and those who, like us, have social and organizational roots inside Iraq, have told the Syrian brethren that we wish to have an alliance and cooperation with the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq led by Baqir al-Hakim, with the Kurdish brothers, and with all political movements, so that we can come up with a

"field leadership" plan and not with political plans, as was the case in the past.

[Abu-Zahr] What is this leadership?

[Al-Juburi] It is a plan that will use all possible means and take into account all those capable of toppling the regime. Afterward, it will resort to the elections polls and democratization as a decisive factor for the future of Iraq.

[Abu-Zahr] Will the opposition transfer its headquarters to Damascus?

[Al-Juburi] Certainly. The Syrian brethren welcome any serious opposition. I believe that in the coming days Damascus will become a center for meetings and will attract the Iraqi opposition. Some people in Syria have offered to host me so that I can work from within this country. They have offered to extend all possible facilities to me in order to help the Iraqi people remove their ordeal. Here, any Iraqi national who is capable of making genuine work is invited to do so.

[Abu-Zahr] Do you believe that Syria will open its borders to the Iraqi opposition, so it can work through it against the Baghdad regime?

[Al-Juburi] I believe so. I also believe that the Syrian brethren are serious about this issue. I heard a nice talk from the Syrian vice president [not further identified] about this issue. He told me: "We do not want to take risks or wage losing battles. Once you believe that you can do a positive and successful act to save the Iraqi people from their ordeal and keep Iraq away from destruction and partition, everything will be possible." We decided to confront Saddam Husayn and have an armed confrontation with him.

[Abu-Zahr] The Iraqi opposition has not thus far taken any positive action. Do the numerous differences among the opposition parties prevent the coordination of military action?

[Al-Juburi] Frankly speaking, the Iraqi opposition is not divided. In fact, the Arab states are divided, and they have conflicts of interest and differences over influence, which are reflected in the Iraqi opposition.

The Iraqi opposition is now present in various Arab states, and it is affected by the host countries for reasons pertaining to passports, residence, and length of stay. Therefore, the inter-Arab and regional conflicts are reflected in the Iraqi opposition factions according to their places of residence.

However, when we meet despite our various attitudes, you will find us in harmony and amity, and we accept resorting to democracy. We will surprise the world with



our unity. Over the past 10 days we have held secret meetings and found that we could have differences over the post-Saddam phase and that such differences would be removed through democracy and resorting to the people and to the concept of liberalization.

Thus, we have decided that we, along with the Kurdish movement, the Islamic movement, and the Shiites, will stand in one trench and adopt one position; namely, preserving the unity of Iraq and believing in the inevitability of toppling Saddam. We have also decided that the Iraqi Army's role is to protect the homeland and the Constitution, and that an elected parliament will determine the strength and influence of each person. [passage omitted]

#### **Opposition Radio Reports Iraqi Intelligence Chief Sacked**

LD2201134696 Tehran IRNA in English  
1308 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ilam, Jan. 22, IRNA — A radio run by an Iraqi opposition group announced today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Sunday sacked head of the intelligence organization of Iraq, Mani 'Abd-al-Rashid al-Tikriti. The radio cited al-Tikriti's inability to control his security agents in foreign countries as the reason for his dismissal.

The opposition radio added that al-Tikriti has been replaced by Brigadier General Ibrahim al-Nasi'yi, head of the department for counter-espionage and external operations in the intelligence organization of Iraq.

Saddam Husayn recently dismissed Minister of Culture and Information Hamad Yusuf Hammadi apparently due to the latter's dispute with Saddam's elder son 'Udayy.

#### **Iraqi Finance Minister on Moves To Reform Economy**

JN2101205396 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
1820 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—Minister of Finance Hikmat al-'Azzawi has declared that the coming days will witness the opening of new horizons for developing the mixed and private sectors in Iraq. This will be achieved by turning several socialist sector firms into joint-stock companies, and also by investing surplus funds in production projects.

At a news conference held here today, the minister added that recent developments regarding the resumption of dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations to ensure the availability of humanitarian necessities for the Iraqi people will not adversely affect the reform pro-

gram being implemented. On the contrary, these developments will reflect positively on our reform program, he argued.

The minister went on to say that the letter President Saddam Husayn addressed to the Council of Ministers on 3 December 1995 provides constant guidelines for a drastic and full-blown economic reform program. He asserted that this letter accurately diagnosed the problems plaguing the Iraqi economy under the unfair sanctions.

The minister of finance pointed out that the letter of his excellency the president spelled out measures to cut back on inflation and price hikes. These measures included a moratorium on the issuance of new banknotes at present, a halt to work at development projects that do not yield good economic returns, and a cutback on expenditure in 1996.

Within the context of this reform program and to promote and streamline Iraq's economic revenues, create quick earnings, and support the Iraqi economy, it has been announced that some of the state assets have been sold and turned into cash liquidity, the minister indicated.

#### **Iraqi Food Prices Drop in Anticipation of Agreement With UN**

NC2101174396 Paris AFP in English  
1528 GMT 21 Jan 96

[Report by Farouk Choukri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan 21 (AFP) - Food prices dropped and the dinar rose here against the dollar on Sunday [21 January] as Iraqis hoped the government would agree to a UN deal allowing for limited oil exports to buy food and medicine.

Prices of sugar, rice, flour and eggs fell around 20 to 25 percent since Iraqis heard their government had agreed to hold talks with the United Nations on implementing a resolution allowing for such sales.

A kilogram (2.2 pounds) of sugar sold Sunday for 1,100 dinars, down from 1,400 dinars on Thursday, while a kilogram of rice fetched 800 dinars, down from 1,000 dinars, and a kilogram of flour 840 dinars, compared to 1,060.

Prices of cooking oil and eggs dropped by a similar amount, as well as locally-produced cigarettes, which cost 4,100 dinars a packet, or 650 dinars less than on Thursday.

A government employee earns around 4,000 to 5,000 dinars per month.

The dinar, meanwhile, stabilized at around 2,150 dinars for one dollar after starting out at 2,300 dinars to the dollar on Sunday, currency traders said.

The Iraqi currency traded at 2,650 to the dollar on Thursday, dropping to 2,000 dinars on Saturday after Baghdad Radio said Iraq was waiting for the United Nations to set a time and place for the talks on oil sales.

"The market is unstable, and few people are buying or selling dollars as they wait for the situation to clear up," a trader said.

Some Iraqis thought Baghdad had already agreed to an oil-for-food deal when they heard the Baghdad Radio report, but the authorities have not said whether they want to renegotiate Resolution 986.

Economist Sa'id al-Samarra'i told the official AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper he expected the dollar to drop further.

"The dollar has dropped 30 percent since Iraq announced it agreed to a dialogue with the United Nations, which affects the prices of basic food products," he said.

Baghdad has repeatedly rejected the resolution adopted in April last year which allows for the sale of up to one billion dollars of oil per quarter to buy food and medicine under strict international control.

It denounces as an attack on its sovereignty those provisions requiring Iraq to export most of the oil via a Turkish pipeline and send financial aid to Kurds in northern Iraq.

The UN Security Council has rejected any amendments to the measure.

Iraqis only learned the details of their government's position on Sunday when official newspaper published letters exchanged between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The AL-THAWRAH newspaper wrote Sunday that Iraq could only count on itself and "not wait for a solution from the Americans" which insist that Baghdad accepts the terms of the measure.

Worn out by the privation of the embargo, Baghdad residents showed they were prudently optimistic on Sunday.

"I hope this dialogue will serve as the beginning of the end," Ahmad Hamdan, government employee, said.

"Our situation at the start of Ramadan is not better than last year," he said. "We just look at the goods because our pockets are empty."

"I hope this initiative will improve our living conditions and will be able to meet our most basic needs, notably in food and medicine," Hadi Musa, a father of four, said.

Iraq and the United Nations have conducted three sets of negotiations since 1991 about applying Security Council resolutions 706 and 712, which also allowed for limited oil exports, but Baghdad rejected them.

#### **Food Imports to Iraq via Jordan, Turkey Increase**

JN2101204796 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
1920 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—Food imports via Jordan and Turkey have seen a remarkable increase.

This was reported to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by a Ministry of Trade source who is monitoring market behavior. The source added that this increase has been seen for the past few days.

It should be recalled that the local market has recently experienced a continuous drop in the prices of food supplies.

#### **Iraqi Paper Says Peasants Avoid Selling Rice to Government**

JN2101183396 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 31 Dec 95  
p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by Sa'dn al-Jabiri: "Who Will Stop Rice Crop Thefts?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our wise leadership has given greater attention to agriculture since the onset of the embargo. During the past three years, the cultivation of rice was expanded from the southern governorates, which are rich in water, to the central governorates, with a view to increasing production. Iraq also had to import rice from abroad to meet the demand for this commodity, which is a main Iraqi staple food.

Official guidelines say that peasants must deliver their entire rice produce to the Ministry of Trade at prices which are fixed by the government. Otherwise, defaulters will be subject to imprisonment and big fines.

To encourage peasants to cooperate with the government and not divert their crop to the commercial markets, President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, issued an order late last October increasing the purchase price of rice, especially the 'Anbar and Nakazah types, from 150,000 to 400,000 dinars per tonne. This is one incentive. The other incentive is that the rice is bought from peasants in bulk rather than in bags.

Some 66 marketing centers consisting of silos, storage places, and warehouses have been assigned to receive the crop. They include 14 centers in al-Najaf, 14 in al-Diwaniyah, 12 in Diyala, 6 in Wasit, and 4 in each of Baghdad, al-Muthanna, and the other governorates.

It is noteworthy that the state has provided the peasant with fuel, oil, and greases for harvesters. It has also paved country roads to facilitate the transportation of the crop to the marketing centers and silos.

Moreover, the state has supplied bags, scales, and laboratory facilities and is paying farmers and peasants forthwith. Yet despite the guidelines, it has been observed that most of the rice crop this season was harvested manually and that large quantities of it were hidden for the purpose of diverting them to the lucrative commercial markets.

The guidelines of the Ministry of Agriculture stipulate that the harvest must be carried out through the use of harvesters and that each harvester shall be accompanied by an official who will watch over the entire crop until it is marketed to the silos.

Nevertheless, the crop is being stolen and smuggled out as fodder in big trucks and trailers. This is what has happened in the areas of Umm Na'aja, al-Mishkhab, and Abu-Sukhayr in al-Najaf!

Finally, this is a sincere appeal to the control departments of the Ministries of Agriculture and Trade to monitor such violations and thefts which contribute to the hike in rice prices in the local markets.

#### **Rise in Drug Addiction in Iraq Attributed To Corrupt Doctors**

JN2101194596 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 6 Jan 95  
p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by 'Izz al-Din 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Hadithi: "Drug Addicts: Victims of Psychiatrists"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A serious phenomenon has begun to spread among our youths, middle-aged people, and even women. This is drug addiction by taking Artane and Parkizol, which are trade names for a drug called Benhexol. What is even more serious is that some psychiatrists are encouraging the spread of this addiction by prescribing the drug to patients who complain of depression. Yet pharmaceutical science and members of the psychiatry and neurology professions do not consider this drug as a cure for depression. But its misuse by some doctors, who prescribe the drug for simpletons and patients, has created the general impression that it is a cure for depression. Its use has spread even among doctors themselves. This is a

professional error, and we fear that some doctors are not aware how serious it is. Transforming a patient from a person who suffers from depression to a person who suffers from drug addiction is a crime against the patient himself. Moreover, the addiction is not only dangerous to the psychological health of the patient, but also a violation of the scientific principles for treating patients. Worse yet is that some of those who practice psychiatry seem to be ignorant of the fact that drug addiction is a more serious disease for the patient than depression.

This is as far as the individual is concerned. Addiction is also considered one of the most dangerous social diseases faced by both advanced and backward societies, because it is difficult to treat once it has become widespread. Depression as an illness is easy to treat in any of its forms, and the patient can recover after a simple treatment. It also does not have any harmful or destructive effects on society, as addiction does. [passage omitted]

All this has led to an even more serious phenomenon; namely, the participation of members of the medical services in the spread of the drug addiction phenomenon by dealing in Artane and Parkizol and making enormous profits. These drugs have now begun to disappear from private pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, popular pharmacies, medical supply stores, and even Bilat al-Shuhada' pharmacies, which the government has set up to help patients obtain rare medicines. These drugs have begun to disappear from all these authorized places and to reappear with drug dealers. These dealers are now exploiting the needs of those who are addicted to these drugs by hiking prices to astronomical levels. The drug addict does not need a doctor's prescription, and the pharmacies are not providing him with this drug, so he resorts to the black market and these dealers.

Some addicts and drug dealers have also begun advising whoever is going through a psychological crisis to take this drug. Thus the phenomenon of addiction to Artane and Parkizol has spread. The cause of this phenomenon is some practicing psychiatrists who are helped by dealers in the black market.

Therefore, it is imperative for the doctors union in cooperation with the Ministry of Health to come up with sound solutions to put an end to the activity of these doctors. Security organs should also track down the dealers and try to curb their inhumane trade.



**Iraqi Paper Reports on 'Rampant Phenomenon' of Car Thefts**

JN2101181796 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 4 Dec 95  
p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by Nidal Muhammad al-Jarrah: "Putting an End to Car Thefts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A serious phenomenon, which is harmful to the economy and security of the state as well as society, has become rampant recently. This is the theft of government and private cars, as is obvious from the notices of lost cars appearing daily on the television screen. This phenomenon, which occurs almost daily, has affected the security and life of the citizen as well as the civil servant on official duty. What we witness is an organized racket being carried out by criminal, alien gangs in all parts of Baghdad and the governorates. These unbridled gangs roam the streets, stealing and killing. Even the security services stand helpless and unable to protect the property of the state and the citizens.

I am writing this article as one of the victims. My official government car was stolen three months ago. When I reported the theft to the competent authorities, they showed no interest other than recording the theft and sending a telegram to the control department. It was as though the stolen car was a needle in a haystack. A stolen car is only found by sheer coincidence or God's will.

Protecting the property of the state and the citizen and preserving security calls for the following quick measures:

1. Mounting a major campaign to completely eliminate these sabotage gangs.
2. Banning the sale of car parts on the streets, since these are mostly stolen parts which are being sold in sight of the security authorities.
3. Shutting down stores which sell cannibalized car parts, since they are all stolen parts being sold at a cheap price.
4. Mounting large-scale campaigns in certain suspect areas in the suburbs of Baghdad, especially in farms and plantations, where most stolen cars are hidden.
5. Establishing government control on all areas, especially those which are adjacent to the autonomous region, since stolen cars are often smuggled into the northern region. When I inquired at the government control department, I was told that cars are smuggled out to the north through country lanes.

6. Circulating the descriptions of stolen cars to the quarters responsible for combating car thefts in all governorates. It has been observed these quarters have no knowledge about the thefts, since the Baghdad directorate does not circulate the descriptions of cars to the governorates.

One other observation has to be made. Several decrees have been issued by the Revolution Command Council about stolen government cars, including Decree No. 73 of 1994, which fines the driver who is responsible for the car at the time of theft. Any legislation or decree that is issued must be in the interest of the citizen first and foremost—not against him. But, the competent quarters sometimes interpret these decrees differently.

**Iraqi Paper Notes 'Rampant' Absenteeism Among Students**

JN2101185496 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 25 Dec 95  
p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by Wasfi Fadil Muhammad: "Absenteeism Among Pupils: Causes and Proposals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Absenteeism among school pupils is an old phenomenon. Recently, however, it has become rampant in our schools. Its causes can be summed up as follows:

1. Pupils have no desire to study or fear those who steal books and money from fellow pupils. Some pupils fear their teachers when they fail to finish their schoolwork.
2. It has been observed in the years of the unfair embargo on our country that many parents, especially those who run their own businesses, encourage their sons to leave school and work with them to improve the living conditions of their families.
3. The hike in transport fares and school expenses, including the purchase of bags, uniforms, and stationery. Charging pupils for books and the collection of donations.
4. Long periods of absenteeism among teachers.
5. School administrations' failure in running their schools and maintaining discipline.
6. The directorates of education share a big responsibility for this phenomenon for the following reasons.
  - a. Failure to fill in vacancies in schools and stabilize the teaching staffs by carrying out transfers, especially those which take place at the beginning of the school year and continue for a period of more than one month in some cases.



b. School administrations' failure in keeping inspectors informed about their records on absentee pupils.

7. The presence of hooligans near schools for girls, which prompts parents to stop their daughters from continuing their studies.

**Proposals:**

1. Instructing all schools in the country to provide educational guidance, as is now applicable in some intermediary schools.

2. Offering token awards at the end of the school year to punctual pupils, enabling them to participate in school trips free of charge, and supplying them with new books.

3. Achieving coordination between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture and Information in the preparation of radio and television educational programs which emphasize the importance of schools in building society and the danger of absenteeism to society.

4. Achieving coordination between the directorates of education and popular organization — the General Union of Iraqi Women, the National Union of Iraqi Students, people's councils, etc. — in helping schools eliminate this phenomenon.

5. Opening evening schools to pupils, especially in the popular areas where there are few schools these days.

6. Honoring schools which have reduced absenteeism, even by simply sending letters of thanks to their administrations and staff, and punishing those in which there has been a rise in absenteeism.

7. Achieving cooperation between the security departments and schools for girls in order to ensure security and stop molestations by hooligans.

8. Filling vacancies in schools and stabilizing their staff before the beginning of the school year.

9. Addressing letters of thanks and appreciation to punctual teachers at the end of the school year.

10. Giving priority always to punctual pupils, after the sons of martyrs, POW's, and missing persons, in the supply of shoes and bags in elementary schools.

**Iraqi Paper Urges Arab Officials To Reconsider Stand on Iraq**

JN2201112396 Baghdad INA in Arabic  
0717 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH called on those who have been unfair to Iraq to be logical and reconsider their calculations according to the new facts, which prove

that Iraq will remain faithful to its moral course and principled stands.

AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, says in an article today that Iraq adheres to the unity of its people, who are eternally united with their leadership and leader mujahid Saddam Husayn. The paper says there is no force on earth that can make the Iraqi people abandon their national principles.

The paper adds: Extending a generous hand to the Arab officials who did it injustice, Iraq is showing an honest tendency to forgive and transcend trivialities. This is a constant Iraqi trait, rather than a momentary or casual offer. It aims to help others rectify their stands by helping them see what is right and find the path of justice and guidance. This would be in their own interest rather than the interest of Iraq.

The paper adds: As described by President Saddam Husayn, lionhearted Iraq, which takes pride in its human and pan-Arab role, has been generous, noble, and proud. Iraq has returned healthy to its main arena of action [words indistinct] the transient wounds [words indistinct] because of the aggression and the blockade.

The paper stresses that among the facts produced by the immortal Mother of Battles and tangibly proven by the Iraqis' militant stand over the five-year blockade [passage indistinct].

**'Text' of Iraqi Local People's Councils Law Published**

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21 Dec 95 pp 2, 7

["Text" of Local People's Councils Law No. 25 of 1995, as approved by the National Assembly and the Revolution Command Council and issued by President Saddam Husayn on 20 December]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The Republic of Iraq  
In the name of the people  
The Presidency

Based on the approval of the National Assembly and the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and in accordance with the provisions of Article 53 of the Constitution, we have issued the following Law No. 25 of 1995

The Local People's Councils Law

## **Part I: Establishment and Formation of Councils**

### **Chapter 1: Establishment of Councils**

Article 1: Each subdistrict, district, and governorate shall have a Local People's Council enjoying a corporate status, and the council's headquarters shall be located in the capital of the administrative unit.

#### **Article 2:**

1. The Local People's Council shall consist of permanent members by virtue of their office; and of elected members, of which there shall be twice as many as the permanent ones.

2. The president of the republic shall name permanent members of the Local People's Council in the governorate, and shall also add permanent members representing other quarters not stipulated in Article 7 of this law.

3. The Council of Ministers shall name permanent members of the Local People's Council in the subdistrict and the district, and shall add other permanent members representing other quarters not stipulated in Articles 4 and 5 of this law.

#### **Article 3:**

1. The relevant ministry stated in this law shall name its representative to the Local People's Council from among the heads of its branches in the capital of the administrative unit.

2. If the ministry has no branch in the capital of the administrative unit, it shall name its representative to the council from among its employees in that unit. The representative shall be specialized in the council's affairs.

### **Chapter 2: Membership of the Council**

Article 4: The permanent members of the Local People's Council in the subdistrict shall be as follows:

1. The subdistrict officer
2. The subdistrict municipality director
3. The subdistrict police director
4. The representative of the Ministry of Education
5. The representative of the Ministry of Health
6. The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture
7. The representative of the Ministry of Irrigation
8. The representative of the Ministry of Transport and Communications
9. The official in charge of the electricity department in the subdistrict
10. The official in charge of the water and sewage department in the subdistrict

Article 5: The permanent members of the Local People's Council in the district shall be as follows:

1. The district officer
2. The district municipality director
3. The district police director
4. The representative of the Ministry of Education
5. The representative of the Ministry of Health
6. The representative of the Ministry of Transport and Communications
7. The official in charge of the agriculture department in the district
8. The official in charge of the irrigation department in the district
9. The official in charge of the electricity department in the district
10. The official in charge of the water and sewage department in the district

Article 6: The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation shall have no representatives on the Local People's Councils in the subdistrict and the district which have no agricultural activity.

Article 7: The permanent members of the Local People's Council in the governorate shall be as follows:

1. The governor
2. The deputy governor
3. The assistant to the governor
4. The governorate police director
5. The director of the governorate's municipalities
6. The governorate education director general
7. The governorate health director general
8. The governorate agriculture director
9. The governorate irrigation director
10. The representative of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
11. The representative of the Ministry of Transport and Communications
12. The representative of the Ministry of Finance
13. The representative of the Ministry of Trade
14. The representative of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
15. The representative of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs
16. The representative of the Ministry of Culture and Information for cultural, arts, and heritage affairs
17. The representative of the State Enterprise for Tourism
18. The governorate Electricity distribution director
19. The governorate water and sewage director
20. The governorate roads and bridges director

Article 8: The elected members of the Local People's Councils shall be chosen by secret, direct ballot.

Article 9: Membership of two Local People's Councils at the same time is not permitted.

Article 10: The membership of the elected member of the Local People's Council ends in one of the following cases:

1. If the council's term expires or if the council is dissolved.
2. If the member's resignation is approved by the majority of the council members, and the resignation shall take effect soon after its approval.
3. If one of the candidacy conditions for the council's membership is not met.
4. If the member assumes a job outside the governorate for at least six months.
5. If the member boycotts four consecutive sessions of the council without a legitimate excuse.
6. If, for compelling reasons, the member fails to carry out his duties and cannot attend the council's sessions for six consecutive months.

## Part II: Elections for the Councils

### Chapter 1: Conditions That Must Be Met by the Voter and Candidate

Article 11: Every Iraqi, male or female, can be a voter and a candidate for the People's Local Council if he or she meets the criteria listed in this law.

Article 12: The voter must be:

1. Of Iraqi nationality.
2. Have completed 18 years of age.
3. Normally resident of the administrative unit.

Article 13: The candidate must be:

1. Iraqi from two Iraqi-born parents or from an Iraqi-born father and an Arab-born mother.
2. Legally competent and completed 25 years of age.
3. Not married to a foreigner.
4. Believe in God and the basic principles of the Constitution and the glorious 17-30 July revolution.
5. Not convicted for a crime of honor.
6. Must have completed the elementary education or popular schools certificate.
7. Not on active service in the Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces.
8. Of a sound military service status.

### Chapter 2: Candidacy

Article 14: Anyone who normally resides in the sub-district has the right to run for the membership of the council of the subdistrict, district, or governorate. A resident of the district capital has the right to run for the district council or the governorate council. A resident of the governorate capital has the right to run for the district council or the governorate council. It is impermissible to run for more than one council.

Article 15: Candidacy applications must be submitted within 20 days as of the issuance of a Council of Ministers' decision setting the date of elections. The applications must be submitted to the head of the administrative unit for whose council the candidate wishes to run. The candidacy application must be supported by documents proving the availability of the candidacy conditions stipulated for in provisions 1, 2, 6 and 8 of Article 13 of this law. A written statement by the candidate is enough to prove the availability of the other conditions.

Article 16:

1. The head of the administrative unit must inform the candidacy applicant of the acceptance of his or her application within 72 hours as of the date of its submission. If the candidacy application is rejected for not submitting the documents stipulated for in Article 15 of this law, the head of the administrative unit must issue a decision giving causes within 72 hours as of the date of the submission of the application, and notify the candidacy applicant within 24 hours as of the taking of the decision. The candidacy applicant has the right to contestation within 72 hours as of the date of receiving a notification before the committee supervising the Local People's Councils elections at the administrative unit.

2. The committee supervising the Local People's Council elections in the administrative unit must decide on the contestation within seven days as of the date of its submission. The decision of the committee shall be final, and it must notify the head of the administrative unit and the candidacy applicant of it.

Article 17: All candidacy applications must be sent by the heads of the administrative units to the committee supervising the Local People's Council elections in the governorate, accompanied by their notes.

Article 18:

1. The committee supervising the Local People's Council elections in the governorate shall specify the names of the candidates for the councils membership. When convinced that any of the candidates does not meet the candidacy conditions, the committee is entitled to drop

his or her name from the list, and shall notify him or her of that decision in writing within 72 hours as of the date of taking the decision.

2. Those whose names have been dropped from the lists of candidates according to provision 1 of this article have the right to contestation before the Higher Committee Supervising the Local People's Councils Elections within 72 hours after receiving notifications that their names have been dropped. The Higher Committee's decision shall be final. The Higher Committee shall notify the committee supervising the elections in the governorate and the candidacy applicant of its decision in writing.

3. The candidates are notified of the acceptance of their candidacy by having their names announced through the various mass media. Their names shall be posted on notice boards to be displayed for this purpose at each ballot center 20 days before the beginning of the elections.

#### **Chapter 3: Date of the Elections:**

Article 19: The date of the elections shall be set in accordance with a decision by the Council of Ministers, and will be announced by all mass media 60 days before the starting date.

Article 20: If a council's term expires or if it is dissolved, a decision shall be issued by the Council of Ministers within 20 days as of the date of the expiration or the dissolution setting a date for holding elections according to the provisions of this law.

Article 21: The Local People's Councils elections are held on two consecutive days. The first day shall be set for the election of the Local People's Councils in districts and subdistricts. The second day shall be set for the election of the Local People's Councils in the governorates and the Local People's Council of Baghdad.

Article 22: By-elections to fill vacant seats at councils or to choose elected members when adding new permanent members according to Article 2 of this law are held once a year and according to the provisions in this law, provided that no less than one year remains left before the expiration of the term of the council. The date of the elections shall be set according to a decision by the Council of Ministers.

#### **Chapter 4: Election Committees**

Article 23:

1. The Council of Ministers shall form a Higher Committee Supervising the Local People's Councils elections under the interior minister and the membership

of two members to be appointed by the Council of Ministers, a representative of the Justice Ministry, and a representative of the presidency of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

2. The Higher Committee will form supervisory committees in the governorates to supervise the elections under a judge whose rank is no less than the second grade to be chosen by the justice minister, and the membership of a member appointed by the Council of Ministers or anyone it authorizes, a representative of the Interior Ministry, and a representative of the presidency of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Executive Council for committees supervising elections in the autonomous region governorates.

Article 24: The committee supervising the Local People's Councils elections in the governorate shall form a supervisory committee to supervise elections in the administrative units under a judge, an official from the public prosecution office, or an employee with a law degree the minister of justice chooses from among the employees of his ministry or the other ministries, and the membership of a representative of the interior ministry, a member to be appointed by the interior minister or by anyone he authorizes, and a representative of the Executive Council in the Autonomous Region governorates.

Article 25: The committee supervising Local People's Councils elections in every administrative unit shall form an election committee to supervise elections in the ballot centers under the chairmanship of a representative of the justice ministry to be chosen by the head of the Appeals Department, and the membership of a representative of the Interior Ministry, five voters of those who are eligible as candidates to the local councils to be chosen by the candidates to the council.

#### **Chapter 5: Voters List**

Article 26: Lists of all citizens over 18 years, arranged in alphabetical order, and containing their addresses and place and date of birth, shall be prepared in every administrative unit and shall be distributed to the ballot centers. Several copies will be sent to the committee supervising elections to the local council in the administrative unit.

Article 27: The committee supervising elections in the administrative unit shall distribute the lists to the ballot centers so that they can be made public and displayed on notice boards at least 21 days before the date set for the elections after stamping them with the stamp of the supervising committee and determining the date of their publication.

Article 28:



1. Every eligible voter whose name is not listed in the voters list has the right to ask that his name be added. Any voter whose name is listed has the right to ask the registration of the name of any citizen whose name was illegally omitted, or to ask for striking out the name of any citizen whose name was illegally mentioned in the voters list during a period of 25 days from the date of the publication of the voters lists.

2. The request is submitted to the committee supervising the elections which will decide on it during a period of 72 hours from the date of its submission and its decision will be final.

Article 29: The identity card or any other official document the Higher Committee will recognize shall be adopted to identify the voters whose names are mentioned on the lists of every ballot center.

#### Chapter 6: Voting

Article 30: Before assuming their responsibilities, the head and members of the election committee in the ballot center shall take the following oath before the committee supervising the elections in the administrative unit:

I swear by Almighty God, by my honor, and my faith to perform my job with sincerity, loyalty, honesty, without bias, and with respect for the law.

#### Article 31:

1. The election of candidates can be made in writing on a ballot card whose shape and specifications, and the way on how to fill it shall be defined in a statement the Higher Committee shall issue.

2. The voter who cannot write can seek the assistance of others to fill his ballot card.

Article 32: The Higher Committee will determine, in instructions it will issue, the shape, size, and specifications of the ballot boxes and how they should be opened and closed.

Article 33: The committee supervising elections in the administrative units shall print the ballot cards and prepare the ballot boxes in accordance with the instructions of the Higher Committee.

Article 34: The head of the election committee in the ballot center shall be responsible for keeping order in it and he can take the necessary measures needed to secure that elections are held in a safe and orderly manner. The public security forces can enter ballot centers at the request of the head of the election committee.

Article 35: The election committee will settle any complaint submitted to it on the elections by issuing a

documented decision that will be noted down in special minutes.

#### Article 36:

1. The election process shall begin at 0800 and end at 2000.

2. If necessary, the Higher Committee may issue a statement setting a new timeframe for elections provided that the hours allocated for elections are not exceeded.

#### Article 37:

1. The Election Committee chairman shall announce the completion of the voting process when the time set for voting expires, and document this in the election minutes.

2. The Election Committee chairman shall open ballot boxes at election centers, and the committee shall then begin the vote-counting process in front of voters.

3. The Election Committee shall document the results of the voting process in the election minutes, provided that the minutes include the following:

- a. Number of voters.
- b. Number of valid ballots.
- c. Number of invalid ballots.
- d. The number of votes won by each and every candidate. Those winning the highest number of votes shall top the list.

4. The Election Committee chairman shall read out the contents of the election minutes publicly, and then sign it, along with other committee members.

5. The Election Committee chairman shall deposit election minutes, along with all ballots and other documents, with the committee in charge of elections in the administrative unit in an envelop sealed with red wax.

Article 38: The following ballots shall be deemed invalid:

1. The ballots not stamped by election committees.
2. The ballots in which none of the candidates is chosen.

Article 39: The committee supervising elections in administrative units shall announce election results and include them in minutes signed by it. It shall then deposit these minutes, along with ballots and other election-related documents, with the committee supervising elections in the governorate.

Article 40: The candidates scoring the highest number of votes within the ceiling of seats allocated for administrative units shall be deemed winners. If the last seat

contested presents us with a situation in which two candidates or more achieve an equal number of votes, the candidates who score an equal number of votes shall have to go through a reelection process seven days after the announcement of the election results.

#### **Chapter 7: Election Campaign**

**Article 41:** Election campaign, if conducted within the confines of the law, shall be unrestricted.

**Article 42:** The Higher Committee shall issue instructions specifying the ways and means of conducting election campaigns, and how candidates may use them.

**Article 43:**

1. The state shall sustain the expenses and costs of election campaigns. Candidates shall be given equal amounts of money for this purpose.

2. If a candidate does not manage to obtain 100 votes, half the amount granted him to cover the expenses and costs of his election campaign shall be taken back from him.

**Article 44:** Election campaign shall begin one day after the announcement of the names of the candidates. It shall end 24 hours before the start of the voting process.

**Article 45:**

1. The name of each and every candidate to the Local People's Councils who obtains money from any local party to influence the outcome of elections shall be dropped from the candidates' list, and he shall be punished by imprisonment.

2. The name of each and every candidate to the Local People's Councils who obtains money from any external party to influence the outcome of elections shall be dropped from the candidates' list. Moreover, he shall be punished by the penalties enshrined in Article 156 of the Penal Code.

#### **Part III. The Councils' Prerogatives**

##### **Chapter 1: The Councils' Prerogatives in Subdistricts and Districts:**

**Article 46:** The Local People's Council shall take the lead in contributing to upgrading the quality of services in administrative units using the means leading to such an eventuality in accordance with the law and regulations.

**Article 47:** With regard to municipal affairs, the Local People's Council shall exercise the following powers without violating the laws in force:

1. Preparing a basic design of the city, including the use of lands and their division into residential, urban, industrial, and commercial areas, and the demarcation of land tracts for various purposes, including places of worship, streets, gardens, schools, hospitals, other health institutions, courtyards, parking lots, etcetera.

2. Endorsing the inauguration, naming, and expansion of roads. Endorsing the construction and tiling of sidewalks, and planting them with trees.

3. Specifying the course and width of roads located in the midst of real estate whose owners demand such a thing.

4. Regulating the occupancy of pavements and vacant lots belonging to the municipality by street vendors, shopkeepers, and makeshift markets.

5. Endorsing the establishment and expansion of public gardens and parks.

6. Endorsing the demolition of dilapidated buildings.

7. Endorsing the building of garages and parking lots.

8. Endorsing the establishment of all kinds of public markets and public auction places.

9. Allocating areas for industrial purposes such as plants, factories, blacksmith shops, plumber shops and others as well as defining the conditions that should be available in each of these places.

10. Committing owners of empty and waste land to remove the dirt and junk from them and keep them clean, and have them build a fence around them if recommended by a report from the health authority and the municipality. In case the owners refuse to comply, the council shall decide that the municipality will do this in their place and will collect all the expenses incurred from these owners through legal avenues.

11. Licensing public places, ordering that they be inspected, and committing their owners to take the necessary measures to ensure the citizens' comfort and public health.

12. Setting the location of businesses and factories considered as hazardous and a nuisance to the citizens because of the smoke, dust, and gases they emit.

13. Monitoring all sites and activities which cause environmental pollution and presenting recommendations to competent quarters with respect to environmental protection.

14. Suspending the construction, changing, or demolishing any building that has been carried out in violation of the law.

15. Endorsing the sale and lease of the municipality's movable and immovable property and its acquisition of property according to the law.

16. Transferring some of the Local People's Council's responsibilities in the field of municipal affairs to the director of the municipality.

Article 48: In the religious and social fields, the Local People's Council shall:

1. Organize social activities in order to achieve social solidarity.
2. Urge the citizens to support the alms fund.
3. Present proposals to maintain mosques, holy shrines, religious sites, churches, houses of worship, and cemeteries.
4. Take care of families of martyrs, of prisoners, and of missing ones as well as keep in touch with them, see how they are doing, and extend help to them.
5. Assist the state in family care and the care of children and the handicapped as well as in providing employment opportunities.
6. Submit proposals to build mother-and-child care centers and to establish health institutions such as health centers and hospitals.

Article 49: In the field of education, culture, and youth, the people's local council shall:

1. Propose the establishment of nurseries, kindergartens, elementary and high schools, as well as vocational schools, including boarding, excluding the technical aspects.
2. Propose the establishment of public libraries, public halls, plastic arts exhibitions, and theaters.
3. Propose methods of preserving antiquities and museums and inform the relevant quarters about measures and behavior in violation of related laws.
4. Propose the building of playgrounds, public swimming pools, and youth centers according to the state plan.
5. Provide care for the youth, organize means to utilize their free time, and urge them to adhere to good behavior, perform their national duties, and take part in public services and campaigns in the interest of the community.

Article 50: In the field of preserving social traditions and public manners, the Local People's Council shall exercise the following responsibilities:

1. a. Licensing or refusing to license clubs, restaurants, nightclubs and other entertainment and touristic facilities.

b. Closing any of the places mentioned in paragraph A of this provision if the presence of these places starts affecting public manners and morals or the citizens' peace of mind.

2. Monitoring the sale and circulation of material that has to do with public morals and inform the relevant quarters in order to take the necessary measures according to the law.

3. a. Transferring all those proven to be practicing prostitution outside the administrative unit on the basis of a final court decision and after they have served their sentence. Furthermore, the council can deport their families outside the administrative unit following a final court decision.

b. If, under provision A of this article, a person or family is transferred to another administrative unit in the governorate or another governorate, that administrative unit shall accept the transferees, and shall monitor their behavior over a period of one year from the date of their transfer, and its council shall decide after this period to either keep the transferees in the administrative unit or to transfer them.

c. If the council finds out that the behavior of a person or family is not in line with the established values and customs of society, it shall guide them to the sound course. If they fail to respond to this guidance, the council shall issue them a written admonition. If they do not respond, the council shall issue them a written warning. If they insist on their behavior, the council shall decide with a two-third majority to publicize the name of the person or the family as behaving in a manner that conflicts with the established values and customs of society.

Article 51: The Local People's Council shall assist the police and security forces of the administrative unit safeguard local and national security and stability and protect the citizens' properties by notifying the police of crimes and dangerous manifestations, guarding shops and residential quarters in accordance with specific conditions, prohibiting noise, contributing to traffic awareness, and regulating the passage of pedestrians in accordance with the law.

Article 52: The Local People's Council shall take the necessary steps, under the law, to protect public funds and properties from waste and misuse.

Article 53: The Local People's Council shall exercise the following prerogatives in the economic field:

1. Overseeing bakeries, mills, and vending places.
2. Nominating the agents of the socialist sector institutions and assigning them within the administrative unit.



3. Helping the relevant administrative authorities in monitoring prices and urging the citizens to abide by the prices set and exposing the violators.

4. Helping the relevant administrative authorities combat any form of economic sabotage.

5. Helping the administrative authorities implement laws and regulations concerning staples the relevant authorities decide to prohibit for social or economic reasons.

6. Carrying out steps and measures to increase agricultural and livestock production, secure the national economy needs through expansion of agricultural areas, livestock wealth, and improve production in terms of quantity and quality.

7. Coordinating efforts with the relevant parties in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation to ensure fair distribution of water for agriculture and the sound and scientific use of water, prevent waste and maintain soil fertility, and avoid actions that result in overwatering the soil or increasing its salinity.

Article 54: The Local People's Council shall assume the following responsibilities:

1. Monitoring the implementation of state service projects in the administrative unit and the projects the council decides to establish in the unit, and informing the relevant parties of the progress of work in them.

2. Inviting any employee in the administrative unit for clarification, consultation, or for discussion on issues falling within his field of specialization that are submitted to the council.

Article 55: When needed, the Local People's Council in the subdistrict shall form standing and ad hoc committees in the subdistrict's villages from their inhabitants to supervise the execution of the tasks and services the council entrusts them with.

Article 56: The Local People's Council in the governorate shall assume the following:

1. Overseeing the good progress of work in the local people's councils in the governorate's districts and subdistricts.

2. Canceling the decisions and suspending the measures adopted by the local people's councils in the governorate's districts and subdistricts if they contain provisions conflicting with laws in force or with the policy of the central government, or are against the interest of the governorate whose interest does not conflict with public interest.

3. Exercising any of the prerogatives of the local people's councils in the governorate's districts and subdis-

tricts if the exercise or non exercise of this prerogative by the council is found to harm the administrative unit's interest.

Article 57: The Local People's Council in the governorate shall assume the following:

1. Contribute in proposing and adopting the housing and construction plan in the governorate and following up on its implementation.

2. Monitor the implementation of state service projects for the governorate in coordination with the relevant parties and provide these parties with their remarks on the progress of work in these projects.

3. Invite any employee in the governorate for clarification, discussion, or consultation on the issues submitted to the council that fall within that employee's field of specialization.

Article 58: The Local People's Council in the governorate shall carry out the following:

1. To take care of culture and arts in a manner that elevate the cultural and artistic standard in the governorate.

2. To take care of the governorate's heritage, history, and national role, and to take the necessary measures to prevent the violation of archaeological sites in accordance with the law.

Article 59: The Local People's Council in the governorate shall give its opinion on the candidates for the elections to the National Assembly and the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region in the governorate at the request of the Higher Committee Supervising the National Assembly elections.

### **Chapter 3: The council's prerogatives in financial affairs**

Article 60:

1. The Local People's Council in the subdistrict and district shall propose the annual investment plan for the administrative unit and present it to the Local People's Council of the governorate. This council shall collect these investment plans of the governorate's administrative units to study and unify them in an investment plan for the governorate.

2. The Local People's Council in the subdistrict and district shall study and propose the current budgets of the public services departments and present them to the Local People's Council of the governorate to study them and refer them to the relevant quarters in order to take these studies into consideration when preparing



the budgets of these departments in accordance with the law and regulations.

3. The Local People's Council in the subdistrict and district shall propose the draft investment plan and the draft budget of the municipality of the administrative unit and present them to the Local People's Council of the governorate to study, approve, and unify them in an annual plan and unified budget of the governorate's municipalities.

**Article 61:**

1. The governor shall present the draft investment plan of the governorate and the unified investment plan and draft budget of the governorate's municipalities to the Interior Ministry coupled with remarks and recommendations of the governorate's Local People's Council.

2. a. The Interior Ministry shall send the unified investment plans of the governorates to the Finance Ministry to study them, decide the annual allocation, and include them in the general state budget.

b. The Interior Ministry shall send the unified investment plans and the annual plans of the municipalities to the planning authority to study and approve them.

**Article 62:**

1. The Local People's Council can urge the citizens of the administrative unit to collect donations and extend financial and material grants in order to set up a project that serves the administrative unit. The collected funds shall be registered in a separate account within the municipality's budget, and these funds cannot be spent for purposes other than those for which they were collected in accordance with the valid legislation.

2. If the Local People's Council secures 50 percent of the costs of a new project within its powers under this law, the state shall secure the other 50 percent of the costs of that project if this does not conflict with the state policy.

**Article 63:**

1. In order to improve the services to the citizens of the administrative unit, the People's Council can decide the channels for spending the funds that come from the following sources:

a. The revenues from selling and investing movable and immovable properties owned by the municipality and the public facilities it administers.

b. The revenues from the exhibitions, festivals, and other activities that are organized by the council. These revenues shall be registered in a separate account within the municipality's budget.

c. The will and inheritance of people who have no heirs, while taking into consideration the rules of the law on the custody of minors, No. 78 of 1980.

2. The Local People's Council shall decide to invest some of the municipality's revenues to establish productive investment projects in the administrative unit.

**Article 64:** The Local People's Council is entitled to approve for the local administration and the municipalities in the administrative unit to sign agreements to get loans to finance their activities for local and municipal services as specified in the law. These loans cannot be concluded before the endorsement of the ministers of interior and finance.

**Article 65:** After attaining the approval of the ministers of interior and finance, the Local People's Councils in governorates may specify the charges for offering local services, such as entry fees for parks, amusement cities, movie theaters, and zoos, as well as land registration and other kinds of fees.

**Article 66:** The accounts of the agencies covered by the provisions of this law shall be subject to the control and auditing of the Financial Audit Bureau.

**Part IV: The Councils' Work**

**Article 67:** The head of the administrative unit shall be the head of the Local People's Council.

**Article 68:** The head of the administrative unit shall call the Local People's Council for convocation within 15 days as of the announcement of the elections results.

**Article 69:** The Local People's Council shall hold its first session under the chairmanship of the head of the administrative unit. The head and members will take the following oath:

"I swear by Almighty God, my honor, and my faith that I will respect the Constitution; protect the people's interests; maintain the homeland's safety, sovereignty, and unity; respect the laws and sincerely preserve the honor and trust of responsibility; protect the accomplishments and gains of the great 17-30 July revolution and work to maintain its central goals, represented by unity, freedom, and socialism; and that I will work to foster the values of these goals among citizens through my work with them and my service."

**Article 70:** In its first session, the council shall elect by secret ballot a deputy head from among the elected members of the council. In the absence of the council's head, the deputy head shall replace him in chairing the councils' sessions.

Article 71: The Local People's Council's term shall be three years as of the date the elections results are announced.

Article 72: The council shall be called for convocation by its head for at least once every 15 days.

Article 73: The Local People's Council may form permanent or temporary committees with specific tasks from among its members.

Article 74: The Local People's Council shall have a full-time secretary appointed by the council. The secretary will have the following duties:

1. Running the affairs of the council's headquarters.
2. Organizing the council's meetings and agenda.
3. Conveying the council's decisions and recommendations to the relevant authorities and following them up.
4. Organizing the minutes of the council's sessions and writing down its decisions and recommendations.
5. Organizing the council's correspondence.
6. Receiving citizens' proposals and complaints and presenting them to the council.
7. Performing any other duties assigned by the council.

Article 75:

1. The Council may appoint a number of full-time or part-time workers to run the affairs of the council's headquarters.
2. The council shall specify the wages and allowances of the council's secretary and workers. These expenses and the council's other expenses shall be disbursed from the municipality's budget.

Article 76: When the Local People's Council is dissolved or when its term expires, the permanent members of the council shall be responsible for performing the council's duties in the municipal affairs stated in Article 47 of this law until a new council is formed. Neither they nor the head and employees of the administrative unit may annul, amend, or freeze the decisions and measures which the former council took according to its powers and specializations.

Article 77: A general congress of the People's Local Councils is held in the governorate's capital once a year or whenever the need arises at the invitation of the governor and is held under his chairmanship. The congress will discuss common problems, the exchange of experience, and ways of promoting councils' performance.

Article 78: Any other matters regarding the work of the People's Local Councils, the discipline of their members, and how to set up their committees shall be determined by regulations proposed by the minister of interior and issued by the president of the Republic.

## Part V: Councils in the Governorate of Baghdad

### Chapter 1: Councils in the city of Baghdad

Article 79: A Local People's Council shall be established in every district which lies within the basic design of the city of Baghdad. The permanent members in this council shall be as follows:

1. The district administrative officer.
2. The director general of the municipal department at the Baghdad municipality operating within the district's administrative boundaries.
3. An Education Ministry representative with the rank of director general.
4. A Health Ministry representative with the rank of director general.
5. A Transport and Telecommunications Ministry representative with the rank of director general.
6. The district's police director.
7. A representative from the General Enterprise for Electricity with the rank of director.
8. A representative from the Water Department at the Baghdad Municipality with the rank of director.
9. A representative from the Sewerage Department at the Baghdad Municipality.

Article 80: If, according to the Baghdad Municipality Law, the district's administrative boundaries in the city of Baghdad include more than one municipal department, all directors general of the municipal departments operating within the district's administrative boundaries shall be members in the district's council.

Article 81: In the city of Baghdad, a Local People's Council shall be established, and its permanent members shall be as follows:

1. The council's head, who shall be appointed by a presidential decree issued by the president of the Republic.
2. The mayor of Baghdad.
3. The governor of Baghdad.
4. The Baghdad Municipality's deputy mayor for technical affairs.
5. The Baghdad Municipality's deputy mayor for administrative affairs.
6. The Baghdad Municipality's deputy mayor for municipal affairs.
7. An Education Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.
8. A Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.
9. A Health Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.

10. A Transport and Telecommunications Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.
11. A Finance Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.
12. A Trade Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.
13. A Labor and Social Affairs Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.
14. An Awqaf and Religious Affairs Ministry representative with the rank of under secretary.
15. A Culture and Information Ministry representative for culture, arts, and heritage affairs with the rank of under secretary.
16. The head of the Tourism Organization.
17. The deputy governor.
18. The assistant governor.
19. The director of the Baghdad-al-Rasafah police.
20. The director of the Baghdad-al-Karkh police.
21. The director general of the Baghdad electricity.
22. The director general of the Water Department at the Baghdad Municipality.
23. The director general of the Sewerage Department at the Baghdad Municipality.

**Article 82:**

1. The president of the Republic shall determine the number of the elected members in the Local People's Council of the city of Baghdad.
2. Each of the districts of the city of Baghdad shall have an equal number of representatives in the Local People's Council of the city of Baghdad.
3. The district's representatives shall be elected by the citizens who usually reside in the district.

**Article 83:** The mayor of Baghdad and the governor of Baghdad shall be two deputies for the head of the Local People's Council of the city of Baghdad. In its first session and through secret ballot, the Council shall elect two other deputies for the head from its elected members.

**Article 84:** The Local People's Council of the city of Baghdad can delegate some of its powers regarding municipal affairs to the mayor of Baghdad. The mayor of Baghdad can delegate part of these powers to the under secretaries and directors general of the Municipality of Baghdad.

**Chapter 2: Councils Outside the City of Baghdad**

**Article 85:** A subdistrict which lies outside the boundaries of the Baghdad city's basic planning and which belongs to a district within these boundaries shall have a Local People's Council. This Council shall be established and shall pursue its prerogatives in accordance

with the provisions of this law. The Council's head and his deputy shall be members in the district's Local People's Council.

**Article 86:**

1. The subdistricts and districts of the Governorate of Baghdad which lie outside the boundaries of the Baghdad city's basic planning shall have Local People's Councils which shall be established and shall pursue their prerogatives in accordance with the provisions of this law.

2. A commission shall be formed, with the governor as its head. It shall include in its membership the heads of the Local People's Councils as its members in the districts stipulated in Item 1 of this Article as well as their deputies and a member chosen by the district's Local People's Council from its elected members.

This commission shall assume the prerogatives of the Local People's Council in the governorate stipulated in Article 56 of this law.

**Part VI: General and Final Rules****Chapter 1: General Rules**

**Article 87:** It is impermissible for a member of the Local People's Council to attend a session discussing a topic of personal interest to him, to his immediate family, or to other close relatives.

**Article 88:** Monthly awards for members of the Local People's Councils shall be determined by a decision made by the president of the Republic. The Ministry of Finance shall disburse these awards.

**Article 89:** When a Local People's Council is dissolved for violating its legally stipulated duties, the Council's members shall be prevented from nominating themselves to the new Council except for those whose nomination is approved by the president of the Republic with regard to the Local People's Council in the Governorate or in the city of Baghdad, or those whose nomination is approved by the Council of Ministers with regard to the Local People's Council in the district or subdistrict.

**Article 90:** During the last 30 days of its term, the Local People's Council shall not exercise the prerogatives stipulated in Article 47 of this law, except for those stipulated in Items 1, 6, 13, and 16 of Article 47.

**Article 91:**

1. The minister of interior shall dissolve the Local People's Council when it loses the majority of its elected members.



2. Based on a proposal by the minister of interior and when there is a reason to do so, the Council of Ministers can dissolve the Local People's Council when it violates its legally stipulated duties.

3. If the Local People's Council is dissolved in the two cases stipulated in Items 1 and 2 of this article and if the remaining term exceeds six months, an election shall be held to choose elected members for the new council in accordance with the provisions of this law. The term of this council shall complement the term of the dissolved council.

Article 92: The texts of this law shall apply to the Local People's Councils in the governorates of the Autonomous Region, taking into account the provisions of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Law No. 33 of 1974.

Article 93: The texts of this law shall apply to the Local People's Councils in the Governorate of Baghdad, taking into account the provisions stipulated in Part V of this law.

Article 94:

1. The Local People's Councils in the districts which lie within the boundaries of the Baghdad city's basic planning shall not exercise the prerogatives stipulated in Article 60 of this law. The Local People's Council of the city of Baghdad shall exercise these prerogatives.

2. The Local People's Council of the city of Baghdad, without the Local People's Councils of the districts which lie within the basic design of the city of Baghdad, shall pursue all prerogatives related to the basic planning of the city of Baghdad.

Article 95: Taking into account the provisions of Article 77 of this law, the annual congress of the Local People's Councils shall be held in Baghdad according to invitation from the head of Baghdad Local People's Council and under his chairmanship.

Article 96: The president of the republic is entitled to dissolve the Local People's Council of Baghdad by a republican decree when it loses the majority of its elected members or when it violates its duties stipulated in the law. Elections are conducted to choose the elected members of the new council in accordance with the provisions of this law while taking into consideration the provisions of item 3 of Article 91 of this law.

Article 97: The president of the republic can delay the elections of the Local People's Councils in one of the administrative units or more if there are circumstances preventing these elections until the circumstances are back to normal.

## Chapter 2: Closing Provisions

Article 98: When the Local People's Councils are formed in the administrative units, the municipal councils are canceled and their rights and duties are transferred to the municipalities which practice the municipal duties stipulated in the law on administering the municipalities No. 165 of 1964 in a manner that does not conflict with the provisions of this law.

Article 99: When the Local People's Council is formed in Baghdad, the Municipal Council of Baghdad is canceled. Baghdad Municipal Council is the council stipulated in the law on administering municipalities and the law of Baghdad Municipality No. 16 of 1995. All the rights and obligations of that council shall be transferred to Baghdad Municipality which shall carry out the municipal duties stipulated in the law of administering municipalities in a manner that does not conflict with the provisions of this law.

Article 100: The Local People's Councils shall practice the prerogatives assigned to the Local People's Councils in accordance with the valid legislation and in a manner that does not conflict with the provisions of this law.

Article 101: The interior minister is entitled to issue instructions necessary to facilitate implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article 102: This law shall be applied 60 days after it is published in the official gazette.

Drafted in Baghdad on 20 December 1995.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

### **Iraqi RCC Issues Decree on 'Opinion Panels'**

JN1201120996 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic  
24 Dec 95 p 4

[RCC Decree No. 135 of 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council Decree No. 135 dated 18 December 1995.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] decrees as follows:

First. Formation of a panel to be called "Opinion Panel" in every ministry other than the Ministries of Defense and Justice, and in every quarter which is not linked to a ministry other than the Financial Control Board and the Central Bank.

Second. The president of the republic may decide not to include any ministry, or quarter which is not linked



to a ministry, under the provisions of this decree. He may also for the sake of the public interest suspend its operation temporarily in any ministry or quarter which is not linked to a ministry.

Third. The "Opinion Panel" shall consist of not more than 21 members as follows:

1. The minister or head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry.

2. Or, representatives of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry.

3. The directors general who occupy key posts in the ministry or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry. They shall be appointed by the minister or the head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry.

4. Two experts at the maximum who shall be chosen by the minister, or the head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, from among the employees of the ministry or of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, or from among others.

Fourth: The president of the republic may add one or more members to the panel.

Fifth: The minister, or the head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, shall head the meeting of the panel. And, in his absence and whenever necessary, the meeting shall be headed by the representative of the minister or the most senior employee in the quarter which is not linked to a ministry.

Sixth: The minister, or the head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, shall appoint one of the employees as secretary of the panel who will be responsible for preparing the agendas of the panel, organizing its meetings, and undertaking any other tasks entrusted to him by the panel.

Seventh: The minister, or head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, shall inform the panel of the state general policy as approved by the president and the cabinet with regard to the ministry or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry.

Eighth: The panel shall exercise the following duties:

1. Study and approve the budget of the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, and its subsequent amendments before referring it to the competent quarter.

2. Study and approve the draft development plan of the ministry, or quarter which is not linked to a ministry, and its subsequent amendments before referring it to the competent quarter.

3. Study and approve the draft laws and regulations which are proposed by the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, before referring them to the cabinet or the competent quarter.

4. Study the main activities, projects, and programs in the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, and follow up on their implementation.

5. Coordinate with the departments of the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, with the view to achieving better integration and cooperation between them.

6. Study proposals and plans with the view to improving performance, developing production in accordance with the available designed capacities, and reducing waste.

7. Form standing or temporary committees which are relevant to the activity of the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, to carry out the tasks entrusted to them.

Ninth: The panel shall supervise and control the method and sound application of legislations and guidelines on rewards, allowances, and other incentives pertaining to the improvement of performance and the development of production.

Tenth: The ministry, or quarter which is linked to a ministry, may propose to the cabinet other duties for the panel which are of obligatory or advisory nature. These shall be included among the duties of the panel once they have been approved by the cabinet.

Eleventh: The president of the republic may refer to the panel whatever issues or tasks he decides.

Twelfth: The panel shall consider grievances which are made by the employees of the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, or from outside the ministry or quarter. The grievance shall be referred directly to the panel secretary, who shall include it in the panel's agenda. The panel may set up one or more committee to investigate the grievance.

Thirteenth: If the panel believes that the decisions or measures which are taken by the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, conflict with the laws and regulations or systems and guidelines, it may suspend these decisions or measures until they have been tackled in accordance with the law.

Fourteenth: The panel shall meet at least once a month.

Fifteenth: The panel shall be democratic in its work. Each member shall have the right to express his opinion freely. He shall not be accountable for his opinion except insofar as it violates the law.

Sixteenth: The minister, or head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, shall make use of the recommendations of the panel in achieving better performance in the work of the ministry, or quarter which is not linked to a ministry. He shall be morally responsible for the recommendations which are made by the panel.

Seventeenth: The recommendations of the panel shall be based on a consensus. Decisions and recommendations which do not enjoy a consensus shall be put to the vote.

Eighteenth: Every four months, the minister, or head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, shall submit a report to the cabinet on the work of the panel. The report shall include the following:

1. A summary of the main topics which have been considered by the panel, the recommendations it has made on them, and their implementation.
2. The recommendations which have not been considered by the minister, or the head of the quarter which is not linked to a ministry, including the reasons for that.

Nineteenth: The president of the republic shall determine the remuneration which shall be paid for every meeting to the panel members who are not employees of the ministry, or the quarter which is not linked to a ministry.

Twentieth: The ministry included under the provisions of this decree shall form its "Opinion Panel" within a period of not more than 30 days from the date of the enforcement of this decree.

Twenty-first: The head of the department which is not linked to a ministry shall, within a period of not more than 30 days from the date of the enforcement of this decree, submit a proposal on the formation of his "Opinion Panel" for approval by the cabinet.

Twenty-second: This decree shall be enforced as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

**Peres on Syrian Talks, Palestinian Elections, Covenant**

TA1901183196 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic* 1700 GMT 19 Jan 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Elat on 18 January — recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Mr. Peres, now that peace with Jordan has materialized, what next?

[Peres] When I spoke in the past about the Jordanian option, people laughed. I believe it is possible to reach comprehensive peace in the entire Middle East. My aim, at least, is to attain comprehensive peace.

[Ganor] Including Syria?

[Peres] Including Syria and 15 or 20 other Arab countries.

[Ganor] The question is when this will happen.

[Peres] At the latest by the end of this century — that is, by the year 2000. We still have four years ahead of us, but the more progress we make the better.

[Ganor] Next week, Mr. Peres, another round of talks will start with the Syrians in Maryland. What are your expectations?

[Peres] I hope that just as in the last round, we will cover several issues that so far have been taboo — that the Syrians were not keen to raise — and that we attempt to reach an agreement.

[Ganor] Are you still optimistic and believe it is possible to reach an agreement with Syria as soon as this year, before the Israeli elections?

[Peres] Look, I do not know what one can do with pessimism; it is a waste of time. However, I am not a contractor, and I do not time myself with a stopwatch. I think we must behave responsibly and act with determination while carefully calculating our moves. This is what we are trying to do.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, just as you are sitting here together with Jordan's Prince Hasan, do you expect a similar meeting to take place between yourself and the Syrian president?

[Peres] Yes. I do not know when this will happen, but I am sure it will take place.

[Ganor] Will it happen this year?

[Peres] I cannot give you a date. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, will the elections in East Jerusalem erode Israel's status in the city?

[Peres] There are no elections in East Jerusalem. We have enabled Palestinians who are not Israeli citizens to participate in the elections, just as Americans and Frenchmen can vote in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. What is the difference here? It is exactly the same.

[Ganor] Let me ask again whether this will erode Israel's status?

[Peres] Not at all. Only those who evince nervousness on the Jerusalem issue erode our status. I am convinced that Jerusalem will remain a united city and Israel's capital — with normal nerves rather than Likud nerves.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, some voices among the Palestinians suggest evading the commitment to amend....

[Peres, interrupting] There are always such voices, but I insist that the Palestinians adhere to their part of our agreement.

[Ganor] Namely, that they amend the Palestinian Covenant?

[Peres] That they amend the Palestinian Covenant two months after the Palestinian council is elected.

[Ganor] Will Israel accept any alternative proposal?

[Peres] No. The Palestinian autonomy cannot belong to two organizations at the same time, one of them proposing peace with Israel and the other proposing to annihilate Israel. [passage omitted]

**Peres Expresses 'Great Satisfaction' With PA Elections**

TA2001191796 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew* 1800 GMT 20 Jan 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Gil'ad Adiv on 20 January; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres expressed great satisfaction tonight with the Palestinian elections. Israel is now demanding outright from the Palestinian Authority [PA] to abrogate the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant that call for the destruction of Israel. Gil'ad Adiv interviewed the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Peres] It is a successful conclusion to the two agreements with the Palestinians. The voting was not only to elect Palestinian representatives but, in practice, it also confirmed that the great majority of Palestinians support the agreements and that those who hold knives and explosives are a minority that threatens the Palestinian majority more than us.

[Adiv] What do you expect from 'Arafat now in terms of abrogating the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant?

[Peres] I expect him to fulfill his part in the agreement between us. Two months after the elected Palestinian Council is established, he must remove from the Covenant those clauses that call for harming or destroying Israel.

[Adiv] But what will happen if he does not repeal the clauses within two months?

[Peres] We have sufficient options to halt other things, and he knows this. A number of other things have to be implemented this year — for example, the redeployment in Hebron; the beginning of negotiations on the permanent settlement; further redeployment; and maintaining daily and economic relations. This is why I do not believe he will want to suspend all those things. [end recording]

**Peres Phones 'Arafat, Blames Low Hebron Turnout on Hamas**

TA2001203496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
2000 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres telephoned Yasir 'Arafat tonight and told him that today's elections were the successful climax of the peace negotiations. The Palestinians not only elected their representatives but also expressed support for the agreement with Israel. There is a large Palestinian majority in favor of the accord, Mr. Peres said. Those who deal in terrorism threaten the Palestinians more than us.

In an interview with our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, the prime minister said we can assume that the low voter turnout in Hebron was the result of the influence Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has on that city.

Earlier, Mr. Peres said he expects 'Arafat to meet his commitment to remove within two months those clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant that call for Israel's destruction.

**Peres on Elections Results, 'Arafat Changing Covenant**

TA2101064196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew  
0500 GMT 21 Jan 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Udi Segal on 21 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] The Palestinian elections resulted in two clear victories: The Oslo agreement was,

in fact, approved by a vast majority of the Palestinian residents; and, this is a first step on the road to the establishment of a democratic society.

[Segal] 'Arafat and former U.S. President Carter, who is an observer, said over the weekend that the elections are a first step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state. Did they convince you?

[Peres] No. I believe none of them made the Oslo agreement. [sentence as heard] It was our initiative, to a great extent. No one forced us to do what we did — we chose to do so. This choice comes with restrictions, goals, and dates.

[Segal] So, where do the elections take Palestinian society?

[Peres] At this stage, to stabilize the Palestinian autonomy as an independent entity, perhaps to a democratic society and a free market economy — all very beneficial for the Palestinians.

[Segal] What are the first demands Israel has from the newly elected Palestinian Council that will be established in the wake of the elections?

[Peres] We have no new demands. We ask them to do just what we have been doing — to implement every detail of the agreement with no evasion or delay.

[Segal] Minister Beilin said that if 'Arafat does not cancel the Palestinian Covenant, Israel will not start negotiations on the permanent arrangement.

[Peres] Even I have said that before, this is not new.

[Segal] Is 'Arafat aware of this?

[Peres] Yes.

[Segal] Will Israel allow all the members of the Palestinian National Council [PNC] to enter the territories for the purpose of abolishing the Covenant clauses?

[Peres] Yes.

[Segal] Is this a one-time or a permanent entry permit?

[Peres] I do not know. It depends on what they ask and who asks. As a rule, we will let them enter.

[Segal] Does this include members of rejectionist organizations?

[Peres] It even includes some who refuse to come and will not. In theory, everyone is included. I do not believe they will come.

[Segal] You do not?

[Peres] No.



[Segal] But Israel allows them to enter?

[Peres] We will not place obstacles on the road to convening the PNC.

[Segal] How do you view the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] impact in the territories in the wake of the elections?

[Peres] Hamas suffered a blow because it turned out that a massive Palestinian majority supports the Oslo agreements. The threat to the agreement, the Palestinians, and the majority comes from Hamas guns and bombs. They might inflict a catastrophe on the Palestinians once again, and they are trying to do just that. They are the leftovers of the mufti, the remains of yesterday's reactionary forces. They think you can get with guns what you can not attain with force, and they are wrong. Guns will not move us.

[Segal] To conclude, Mr. Peres, the Palestinian elections were held on time, on 20 January. Will the same happen with the Israeli elections, scheduled to be held on 29 October?

[Peres] Yes, I hope so.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 21 January carries another interview with Prime Minister Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz, also recorded this morning. Asked about Shin Bet reports that 'Arafat may want to amend the Covenant, but cannot, Peres says: "There are all types of reports, but no one can report the future. At best, reports cover the past. I believe that 'Arafat understands that if he does not change the Covenant, he will be jeopardizing his existing relations with us, the United States, and others. I believe he is aware of the dangers that might follow from not fulfilling an agreement." Peres denies the claim that Israel is experiencing "a wave of terrorism," saying: "I must say that over the past several weeks, the Palestinians have been making a real effort to fight terror."]

#### **Likud, Moledet on Elections; Jerusalem Mayor on Low Turnout**

*TA2001195396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud Knesset faction has said that the Palestinian elections are yet another stage on the road to an independent Palestinian state and that the symbols of sovereignty already exist. The Moledet faction said that today's elections have only the trimmings of democracy because Yasir 'Arafat was and remains a despot.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 January carries a live studio interview with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert in which he comments on the low voter turnout in the city. Olmert says that the primary reason that people stayed away from the polls is that Jerusalem's Arab population "deeply fears the brutal and violent methods employed by 'Arafat and his men."]

Thousands attended the right-wing demonstration held tonight in Zion Square in the center of Jerusalem against the government's policy and in support of Jerusalem's unity. The demonstration was organized by the Likud; the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; and the Ma'amatz action committee. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the demonstration, which was orderly, was addressed by activists from the movements but not by Knesset members.

#### **Shahal: Jerusalem Turnout Result of Lack of Voter Interest**

*TA2001182096 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[Interview with Israeli Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal by Salman al-Tawil in the studio on 20 January—live, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shahal] I would say that the election process surpassed all expectations and the day passed virtually trouble free. Second, there is a great deal of cooperation between the Palestinian police and our security forces, especially the Israeli police. There were some problems, but they were resolved through full cooperation and understanding and the transfer of information from one side to the other.

[Al-Tawil] Mr. Shahal, Jimmy Carter and other observers claimed today that a heavy Israeli security presence in East Jerusalem frightened voters away.

[Shahal] I do not think that is true. I think that the police only contribute to security. We made sure that there would be no friction between the populations. There was all sorts of information about the possibility of demonstrations by Israelis in an effort to interfere with the elections. The police had to take all these factors into account. I personally met with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, explained the plans to him, and told him that our concern is for the elections to proceed smoothly. We issued firm orders that Israeli policemen must stay out of the polling stations. That is why the police are located outside the stations. A physical police presence should not be disruptive to the process. I believe the

problem is a different one: The Palestinian residents of Jerusalem were not overly excited about the elections almost from the start.

[Al-Tawil] Mr. Shahal, is there truth to the report or rumor that the Israeli security forces foiled a planned terrorist attack in East Jerusalem today?

[Shahal] I can neither confirm nor deny it; I will not react to the report. I can only say once again that I praise the cooperation between the Palestinian Preventive Security Service and our security forces.

[Al-Tawil] There were charges that the elections in East Jerusalem will harm Jerusalem's status as the united capital of Israel. Now that the elections are being held in East Jerusalem, are those complaints valid?

[Shahal] In my opinion, absolutely no harm is being done to Jerusalem's status. If anything, this is recognition of Israel's sovereignty. They are turning to us. We are the ones who made the arrangements and are permitting Palestinian residents to exercise their right to vote, just as a U.S. citizen living outside the boundaries of the United States may exercise his right to vote for congress or the president.

#### **Israeli Establishment Pleased With Quiet Elections; Closure Lifted**

TA2101072096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew  
0500 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The defense establishment is pleased with the relative quiet in which the Palestinian elections were conducted, despite the fact that three terror attacks or attempted attacks took place over the weekend in the territories. The fear of a possible mass terror attack, in the wake of the elimination of Yahya 'Ayyash, still exists. Nevertheless, the closure imposed on the territories was lifted this morning. Our correspondents in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

[Yokhpaz] Israeli defense elements believed, before the elections, that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] might carry out a mass terror attack after the Palestinian elections to avenge the death of Yahya 'Ayyash. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Shin Bet, and the Israel Police believed that attacks by independent opposition groups might take place before or during the elections, and three did happen over the weekend — the Janin shooting, the Hebron stabbing, and an aborted stabbing attempt near Bethlehem. [passage omitted]

Defense establishment sources say today that the elections alert is behind us, but we are entering the very sensitive month of Ramadan. Last year, they remind us, at exactly this time of year, 22 Israelis were killed in the Bet Lid terror attack.

#### **Israeli Cabinet Briefed on Election Results, Terror Threats**

TA2101104696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
1000 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Security officials believe there is a high probability that terror will intensify after the elections in the territories. They made this assessment during a briefing at the weekly cabinet session this morning. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the ministers were briefed about the elections. They were told that the election results show that Yasir 'Arafat's status has strengthened and confirm that most of the Palestinians support the Oslo agreement.

The prime minister praised Major General Oren Shohor, coordinator of government activities in the territories; Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command; and Yo'el Singer, Foreign Ministry's legal adviser for the way they dealt with the Palestinian elections. Mr. Peres noted that the elections were uneventful and that the three had done a wonderful job. He also praised the Israel Police.

Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal said that the low turnout by East Jerusalem Palestinians shows that Israel's sovereignty over the city has strengthened. He criticized Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, saying that his remarks are stained with politicking and that he did not act as a man who is supposed to represent all the residents of the city.

#### **Israeli Defense Establishment Analyzes Palestinian Elections**

TA2201071396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
0505 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense establishment has started analyzing the results of the Palestinian elections of 20 January. The analysis indicates that some of Yasir 'Arafat's proteges failed dismally. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] Defense establishment sources assert that the level of Palestinian participation in the elections was high: 85 percent in the villages and 75 percent in the towns. Lieutenant General Efrayim Lavi, the Civil Administration's adviser on Arab affairs in Judea and Samaria, and one of the defense establishment's most brilliant analysts, said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the left-wing movements failed in their attempt to bring about a boycott of the elections. Lavi's analysis reveals that the Palestinian security forces were successful in restraining these elements. The Palestinian authorities were able to limit the repercussions from the killing of three Hamas

terrorists in Janin and portray it as a local incident. They also arrested activists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the al-Tahrir Party who tried to disrupt the elections. I asked Lt. Gen. Lavi what characterized the elections in the territories?

[Lavi] One can definitely see that the Palestinians generally voted for candidates they identify with against the background of social or family ties more than as a result of their political or organizational affiliation. The results nevertheless indicate different voting patterns in electoral districts. Thus, for example, the Bethlehem area is mostly characterized by voting patterns which clearly reflect with clan affiliations. Incidentally, the town of Bethlehem itself failed to get either a Christian or Muslim candidate into the Palestinian Council.

[Ben-Menahem] What about 'Arafat's candidates on the selected lists?

[Lavi] 'Arafat's selected lists failed to some degree. In Bethlehem, for example, no Fatah representative from the preferred list was elected. In Ramallah, Fatah field activists who had been removed from the approved list did well.

[Ben-Menahem] In the Nabulus area, the representatives of the refugee camps did very well and they managed to get their people into the autonomy council. In East Jerusalem, women won a wide representation, with three council members. Out of 88 council seats, Fatah won 65. The struggles that were predicted between Fatah field activists from the intifadah and those from Tunis did not materialize. Both groups succeeded in getting their representatives into the council. [end recording]

#### **Peres Says 'Radical' PNC Members Allowed To Return**

TA2001212496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
2100 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has agreed to allow all the members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to return to their homes in the territories. Prime Minister Shimon Peres said that the permission also applies to members of the rejectionist front and radical Islamic representatives on the council. The prime minister also said that the Palestinian Authority has made a real effort to fight terrorism in recent weeks. He spoke with our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. [passage omitted]

#### **Israeli Minister Beilin on Palestinian State, Covenant Amendment, Syria**

TA2001104696 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew  
0800 GMT 20 Jan 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Minister Yosi Beilin by correspondent 'Adi Talmor; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] Are today's elections, as many Palestinians hope, yet another step on the road to the establishment of a Palestinian state with, perhaps, East Jerusalem as its capital?

[Beilin] There will be no state with East Jerusalem as its capital. They can talk about it, and we can blame ourselves or others. It is their right to dream, just as we may have dreams. We could dream of having a state on both banks of the Jordan River, but just as this will never happen, there will be no Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

[Talmor] Will there be a state with another capital?

[Beilin] There will definitely be a Palestinian entity; it exists already. It was, in fact, conceived at Camp David, though some may not like this fact. Time will tell what type of entity it will be — a confederation with Jordan or an independent entity. The agreement that we have to sign by 4 May 1999 will also help to determine this. So, there is not much time left to be curious; it is more or less three and a half years. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] What sanctions could Israel impose on the Palestinian Authority if it does not amend the covenant clauses that call for the elimination of Israel?

[Beilin] The process is very interesting and well structured, and in fact, it is in our hands. There is one thing we could do. If you ask me what will be done, I would recommend — and I will definitely not be the only one — that if the Palestinian Covenant is not amended, the negotiations on the permanent arrangements not start. I cannot see us opening such negotiations before they change the covenant. It would be very strange for us to negotiate with a body that, at least on paper, calls for the elimination of the state of Israel. If they change it, I believe we will begin negotiations this May, and I believe the process will be quicker than planned.

[Talmor] The talks with the Syrians are resuming this week, and army officers will be joining the teams. What is the government expecting of this round of talks, and will the negotiations with Syria be frozen if the expectations are not met?

[Beilin] We expect a change of pace and intensity of the negotiations, and we are expecting the Syrians to reply



to questions we had and will pose regarding normalization, water, security arrangements, and borders. If we stick with the current pace of talks, which is encouraging and quite accelerated and accompanied by optimism in view of very different Syrian remarks, we could definitely come closer to peace, but not this year.

**Israel: Beilin, Shahor Confirm All PNC Members May Enter Autonomy**

TA2001203096 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Jan 96

[Studio interview with Israeli Minister Yosi Beilin and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by anchor Hayim Yavin and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yavin] Dr. Beilin, will you permit Ahmad Jibril and George Habash to come to the territories for the Palestine National Council (PNC) session to be convened to amend the Palestinian Covenant?

[Beilin] Yes. We will permit every PNC member to come. I am saying this unequivocally in the government's name. Nobody will have any excuse not to amend the Palestinian Covenant. Anyone who refuses to change the covenant will not be able to use the excuse that we did not allow this to be done.

[Al-Tibi] Let me add here that there are indications that Dr. Beilin's remarks reflect a decision that has already been adopted. Israel has already informed the Palestinian Authority (PA) that it will permit PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih to return to Jerusalem. He is an old and sick person, and he will return soon.

[Ya'ari] Dr. al-Tibi, more than 100 PNC members have already returned. Let me ask you a question that troubles me at times. What majority must the PNC muster — including George Habash and Ahmad Jibril, if they want to come, as well as all the other officials 'Arafat can still appoint as members — to cancel those painful clauses in the covenant?

[Al-Tibi] Theoretically speaking, if the PNC wants to change the covenant, two-thirds of all its members must decide on this. These clauses will be changed as Yasir 'Arafat guaranteed in his letter to the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and as stipulated in the Oslo B accord.

[Yavin] Is this based on your assessment or on knowledge?

[Al-Tibi] It is based on clear and incontestable knowledge.

[Yavin] Do you have this from Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Tibi] The prime minister has heard it from the chairman himself.

[Ya'ari] I have another question of a technical nature. What body gives the orders: the PA Council that was elected today or the PLO Executive Committee, which is a body that has not been elected but rather appointed on a quota basis? From what I know about the present situation, the PLO has remained the PLO, and it is the so-called sovereign power over Palestinian national decisions.

[Al-Tibi] Israel signed the agreement with the PLO, not the PA, and recognized the PLO rather than the PA. The PNC is the PLO's source of authority, while the PLO Executive Committee is the PA's source of authority.

[Beilin] Let me remark here, however, that life is a dynamic stronger than anything else, and I believe that today's elections will prove that a new, historic situation has been created today and that the people elected today will become the most prominent Palestinians.

[Al-Tibi] Let me concur here that an elected assembly is always more powerful than any other body.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 20 January adds that "Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, said that the members of the PNC can return to the territories for good. He also said that the closure on the territories will be lifted the morning of 21 January but that the special alert to prevent terrorist attacks will continue."]

**Israel: Covenant Abrogation Said To Lead to Prisoner Release**

TA2201094596 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jan 96 p 5

[Report by Smadar Peri, Roni Shaged, and David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Security sources said last night that the abrogation of the clauses in the Palestine National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction will lead to the release of all security prisoners, including those "with blood on their hands," but not those who perpetrated their deeds after September 1993, when the Oslo agreement was signed. The sources stressed that such a move will also depend on developments in the field, terrorist actions, and progress in the political negotiations.

Sources in the defense establishment said that one of the problems will be preparing Israeli public opinion for such a release. "If 'Arafat asks for the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the spiritual leader of Hamas



[Islamic Resistance Movement], Israel will accede to the request," the sources added.

#### **Israeli Hurt, 3 Hamas Members Killed in West Bank Attack**

TA1901164396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror squad carried out an attack at the Jalamah roadblock near Janin this afternoon. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded, and the three terrorists who drove in a car were killed. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menaheem reports that shots were directed from the car and the soldier was wounded. The soldiers manning the roadblock immediately returned fire and killed the assailants. The soldier received first aid and was taken to the 'Afula Hospital. He sustained a slight injury to the leg and is currently being treated. Large forces arrived at the scene.

The Police Valleys Subdistrict declared a state of alert along the Green Line, and Border Police personnel are carrying out searches in the fields near the site of the incident to verify that the passengers of the car had no accomplices. This is reported by our correspondent Ilan Ro'e.

Palestinian sources in Janin issued the names of the three terrorists who were killed: Tariq Mansur, Samir Zubaydah, and Salim Jardat, all of them well-known Hamas activists in Janin.

The IDF has already handed over the bodies of the three to the Palestinian Police, and the muezzins in Janin's mosques are now reading mourning verses from the Koran.

#### **Israeli Foreign Ministry Cable Says Arab Boycott Defeated**

TA2101121696 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 Sha'ot supplement) in Hebrew 21 Jan 96 p 21

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last weekend, the Foreign Ministry sent a cable to all major Israeli embassies, for the first time officially reporting that Israel has, in fact, defeated the Arab boycott.

The cable reports that many companies which in the past surrendered to the Arab boycott or abstained from dealing with Israel for feasibility reasons, have recently invested in Israel. The cable says that "these are mainly multinational companies that started investing in Israel in 1995 as a direct result of developments in the political process." [passage omitted]

#### **Meshulam Sect Forming Armed Militia in Samaria Settlements**

TA2201104796 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jan 96 p 8

[Report by Doron Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabbi 'Uzi Meshulam's disciples have recently begun forming an armed and dangerous militia in several settlements in Samaria aimed at forcibly preventing the evacuation of settlements.

This comes from classified information obtained recently by the Israel Police Intelligence Department. It has been learned that the police have obtained worrisome information that the "Samaria militia" has accumulated large quantities of licensed guns and vast stockpiles of a variety of weapons, some of them stolen from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

The police believe that this militia includes "a group of staunch extreme nationalists who will not hesitate to fight against IDF soldiers in the event there is a decision to evacuate settlements as part of a permanent arrangement with the Palestinians."

A senior police source apprehensively said yesterday: "Kahana's men are 'small-time hoodlums' and leftist bleeding hearts compared to Meshulam's men. These guys fear nothing, and will devotedly and blindly carry out any order given to them by their admired leader."

An investigation into the affair reveals that Meshulam is "the commander in chief" of two other militias, one in Petah Tiqva and another in Rishon Leziyyon, and of a "private guard force" in Yehud, his hometown.

These forces also have arms, but less than their colleagues in Samaria. Most of their members are loyal citizens who hold licensed guns. Therefore, the police cannot act against them until they obtain probable cause that they have committed some felony.

The police have concluded that Meshulam's gang is a full-fledged sect led by a "guru," similar to the sect of David Koresh and other radical groups whose followers did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for their leaders.

It has been learned that Israel recently appealed to several countries for assistance and advice on how to deal with this mushrooming phenomenon. It so happens that there is very little experience on how to deal with such phenomena, and that almost all the attempts to deal with such sects ended in tragedies or mass suicides.

Senior officers disclosed last night that the police do not plan any overt action (such as arrests) against Meshulam's disciples in the near future, and will "concentrate their activities on close, meticulous, and

painstaking surveillance of all their movements and on preemptive actions alone."

The police and the political level are seriously worried that a confrontation with Meshulam's followers which could involve physical harm might inflame hundreds of their admirers and lead to uncontrollable riots.

Senior police officers estimate that "the main issues on the country's agenda in coming years will be Islamic terror, the Russian mafia, and Meshulam's disciples, and that the mafia and Meshulam will be particularly complex and difficult to deal with."

**Israel: Zo Artzenu, Temple Mount Faithful Start 'Armed Patrols'**

TA2201111996 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew  
22 Jan 96 p 13

[Report by Shlomo Tzeznah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Shmu'el Sackett, one of the leaders of the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] movement, told MA'ARIV that the group is conducting armed patrols along the main traffic axes in Judaea and Samaria. The patrols are carried out on an irregular basis and on different roads in order to avoid any friction with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the area.

The idea to launch the patrols was raised approximately two weeks ago, when the Zo Artzenu activists met with settlers in Efrat. At this meeting, the traffic routes were marked out and the nature of the patrols and their implementation was agreed upon.

The patrols are made up of armed men and women and employ the participants' private vehicles.

The Zo Artzenu leaders, who are currently facing charges for sedition, initially demanded that the patrols fly the Israeli flag; however, since the patrols also travel through areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority [PA], such as Ramallah and Bethlehem, this demand was dropped, so as not to create unnecessary provocations.

"The patrols operate all day, depending on the number of people at our disposal," Sackett said. "We did not want to start off big and attract a lot of media attention, so we decided to act quietly. We are still in the organization stages," Sackett explained. The Zo Artzenu leader added: "Soon, the patrols will travel along different routes from Jerusalem to Bet El and from Tapuah in Samaria to Alon More."

It should be noted that the people taking part in these patrols are not only settlers but also residents of central Israel, who join the patrols generally once a week.

At the same time, the Temple Mount Faithful have announced that they will set up squads who will patrol Jerusalem's Old City and the Temple Mount disguised as tourist groups. They said that the instructors would wear blue and white clothing, the colors of the Israeli flag, and the groups would be called "The Temple Mount and Jerusalem Guard."

According to the Temple Mount Faithful, demonstrating their presence in Jerusalem's Old City and its environs "is designed to give a heightened sense of security to Jews and other visitors to these sites." In a leaflet distributed by the movement, local Jewish residents are urged to implement their right to pray and conduct their religious rites on the Temple Mount.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew on 22 January in a page 1 report by Alex Stomakhin notes that "following three attempts to carry out terrorist attacks over the past month and after gunfire reports were heard over the last few days from the direction of Palestinian neighborhoods in downtown Hebron, armed Israeli settlers last night started operating motorized patrols in the center of town.

["The patrols, which at this stage are comprised of three vehicles and about a dozen volunteers, move along Shuhada Street, along a road that connects the Cave of the Patriarchs with the Ashkenazi cemetery."]

**Israel: Police Commander Denies Report of Armed Meshulam Militias**

TA2201120496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew  
1100 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Commander Yosi Levi, head of the Israel Police Intelligence Division says that the police do not have any information that 'Uzi Meshulam's activists have established armed militias in the territories as published in the Israeli press.

[Begin Levi recording] We do not have any inflated or sensational information on that level. We have various reports noting the severity of the phenomenon and the need to monitor developments. We are following this very closely but I think it is an exaggeration to publish reports like that and to quote information from the police Intelligence Division. The report is simply unfounded. [end recording]

**U.S. Pressure on Early Israeli Elections Said 'Inconceivable'***TA2201114996 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew  
22 Jan 96 p 2*

[Editorial: "The Americans and the Israeli Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told Labor's ministers, whose advice he sought on the proposal to bring forward the Knesset elections, that U.S. officials were pressuring against bringing the elections forward for fear that such a move might undermine the negotiations with Syria. He asked the ministers not to associate the negotiations with the elections for fear that this might harm the negotiations.

On the other hand, Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili believes that the results of early elections would be in Labor's favor since the public would still be under the influence of the assassination of the late Yitzhaq Rabin and would vote accordingly.

Election pundits favor early elections, saying that the earlier they are held the better it will be for Labor and the entire Israeli left wing.

Prime Minister Peres has been going to great lengths to keep his position vague, wavering between early elections and the pursuit of the negotiations with Syria. He is also apprehensive about early elections in view of the outcome of the "brilliant trick" of 1976 (when Rabin tried to bring the elections forward following the crisis with the National Religious Party over the delivery of F-15's on the Sabbath), an exercise that ended with the Alignment dropping deep into the opposition benches. Although there is no similarity between what happened then and the situation now, there is still apprehension that such a trick may harm Labor's election campaign.

There are some who think that Shim'on Peres is using the U.S. pressure as an excuse not to bring the elections forward. It is inconceivable that an exemplary democracy like the United States would interfere in the internal considerations of Israeli parties just because U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher wants to score a political achievement for himself and for the United States by promoting the negotiations with Syria. Peres used this argument to convince his ministers that they must support his position not to bring the elections forward, although they may have not needed convincing at all. The truth probably lies somewhere in between. The Americans explained that early elections would harm the negotiations with Syria, but Mr. Peres is confused regardless.

However, if there is any truth to what Peres said — that the Americans do not want early elections for their

own political reasons — this might cast a pall over any possible decision on the issue in the future.

**Labor Central Committee Elects Peres Premiership Candidate***TA2101163596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew  
1600 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, the Labor Central Committee elected Shim'on Peres the party candidate for the premiership by an overwhelming majority. Only three Central Committee members voted against Peres. Peres abstained from voting. This is reported by our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel.

Tzvi Alderoti, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, accepted Peres' request and decided to continue in his post. Alderoti was appointed to this post during the tenure of Prime Minister Rabin.

**Israel: Site for U.S. Embassy Said in Allenby Camp Area***TA2201120196 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT  
in Hebrew 22 Jan 96 p 12*

[Report by 'Ofar Petersburg]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government has already decided where in Jerusalem to relocate the U.S. Embassy when it is eventually moved from Tel Aviv.

A nine-story office building will be constructed in the capital to house the U.S. Embassy. The building will be surrounded by a high wall and sentry towers. The address: the corner of Hebron and Yanovsky Streets.

As with every new construction project, the regional committee on planning and construction in Jerusalem presented the plan in advance in case it arouses any objections. Nevertheless, following a decision made by the State Department in Washington, the committee refrained from explicitly indentifying the new building. The construction plans are labelled: "a building for the residential use of the most senior diplomatic representative of the U.S. Government in Israel."

A perusal of the construction plans indicates that the wall around the new embassy building will be 3 meters high. The building will have a large underground shelter and a huge parking lot.

The assessment is that the area in which the embassy will be built, known as the Allenby Camp area, will become the site of other embassies in the future.

An interesting detail is that the construction plans are valid for 10 years, and the Americans have also been granted the option of a 10-year extension. In other words, the United States is cautiously maintaining a wide time frame in which to relocate the embassy, in accordance with regional developments.

**Jordan Expresses Solidarity With Bahrain To Curb Riots**

*JN2001132996 Amman Radio Jordan in English  
1200 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has condemned the latest riots and sabotage acts in Bahrain, which are aimed at destabilizing the security and stability.

Mr. al-Kabariti has declared that Jordan stands with all its capabilities behind Bahrain to stop such criminal acts. He expressed confidence that the Bahraini authorities can put an end to such misguided elements. He added: All terrorist acts are condemned regardless of their origin or justification.

The foreign minister expressed Jordan's solidarity with the measures taken by the Bahraini authorities against these criminal acts.

**Jordan Awaiting Saudi Reply on Natural Gas Request**

*JN2101190896 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic  
21 Jan 96 p 12*

[Report by 'Isam al-Majali]

[FBIS Translated Text] Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, said that a request has been made to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to supply Jordan with natural gas.

In a statement to AL-ASWAQ via telephone, Darwazah said: We are still waiting for the Saudi brothers' reply. We hope to reach an agreement in this regard in the future.

Regarding the possibility of laying a gas pipeline between Saudi Arabia and Jordan, he pointed out this depends on the Saudi brothers' reply, as well as on the economic feasibility and the location from which Saudi Arabia can supply Jordan with natural gas.

He said that Jordan's annual demand for natural gas amounts to 400 million cubic meters, and increases by 10 percent each year. These amounts are mainly used in

generating electrical power, and in the industries which prefer to use gas.

He pointed out that the ministry prefers to use natural gas from an environmental point of view. There are future plans to use gas in generating power at all stations which are ready for operation on gas.

Darwazah said: Jordan views the issue of gas and oil supplies economically and not politically, because all the Arab states are fraternal states and there is no difference between one state and another. It has recently signed an agreement with Iraq, in accordance with which Iraq will supply Jordan with crude oil in 1996.

He noted that Jordan has a strategic location, and we should benefit from this location. All types of energy transit Jordan from all directions.

**Jordanian Sources Say No Cabinet Reshuffle Likely in Near Future**

*JN2101182396 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jan 96  
pp 1, 19*

[Report by Tariq al-Mawmani]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A reshuffle of the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir is no longer considered to be imminent, as has been reported over the past few weeks.

According to informed government and parliamentary sources, some of the prime minister's close aides said His Majesty King Husayn did not ask the prime minister to reshuffle the cabinet, and the prime minister did not express the desire to do so.

The sources told AL-RA'Y that these aides said the prime minister has not discussed this subject yet and has not consulted any parliamentary bloc, independent members of the House of Representatives, or any political figure on a cabinet reshuffle.

The sources added that the recent reports from political and parliamentary circles are no more than rumors, which usually start the moment any government is formed. [passage omitted]



**Lebanon's Fadlallah: U.S. Verdict on Shaykh 'Against Islam'***NC1901183996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the unfair U.S. verdict against Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman imprisoning him for life is aimed against Islam.

In his sermon in Beirut's southern suburb today, Fadlallah said the U.S. blockade targeting Iran and Sudan is a blockade against Islam and that the sentence passed against Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman falls into this category.

He added that the U.S. judiciary's jury system is not accurate and seeks to tarnish the image of Islam. He said: We know that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman fled his country in search of freedom, therefore it was not in his interest to carry out such acts. He added that even those who were tried with him were imprisoned because they prayed in the same mosque where the shaykh prayed.

**Lebanon's Fadlallah: U.S. Sanctions Against Iran 'Political Stunt'***LD2101213196 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Jan. 21, IRNA — Prominent Lebanese alim, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Hussayn Fadlallah, in an interview with the Damascus-based weekly "AL-MAUKEF" termed as a "political stunt" the recent sanctioning of dlr. [dollars] 20 million by the U.S. Congress for subversive activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Noting that the said amount can make no effect even on a village of the vast country of Iran, Fadhlallah added that the U.S. Administration and the Zionist regime have ganged up together in a bid to strike a blow at the Islamic Iran.

He went on to say that the U.S.-Zionist league was not a new one and that since the Islamic revolution triumphed in Iran in 1979, the U.S. has spent all its potentials in a bid to overthrow the Islamic system in Iran.

Reminding that the U.S. has suffered defeats in all its earlier anti-Iranian plots, Fadlallah noted the "shameful defeat" of the U.S. trade embargo against Iran and called it a lesson for the White House statesmen.

Referring to the American-Zionism plots directed at the Islamic movements in the region, the allamah underlined that the Muslim combatants have been viewed as a serious danger to the interests of the West and the Qods occupying regime.

**Lebanon's Fadlallah Denounces Palestinian Elections as 'Plot'***LD2001063796 Tehran IRNA in English 0402 GMT 20 Jan 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Jan. 19, IRNA — Prominent Lebanese Alem, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad-Huseyn Fadlallah, today denounced as a plot to grant legitimacy to the U.S.-installed puppets, the so-called general elections to be held on Saturday [20 January] in areas of Palestine occupied by the Zionist entity in 1967.

In his Friday prayer sermons at the Imam Reza mosque in south Beirut, Fadlallah added that the sovereignty of the Zionist regime over the areas where the polls are being held, proves that the people are denied the right to vote freely and elect candidates of their choice.

Islamic groups such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad which have decided to boycott the polls calling the terms and conditions as unfair.

In Lebanon, Palestinian parties and refugees have called for a general strike at their camps and settlements, in protest to the Zionist-sponsored elections.

'Allamah Fadlallah said the result of the elections is a foregone conclusion, and similar to the farcial elections held in Arab states, it will bring to power the another batch of American stooges.

He said that it was the duty of the whole Muslim ummah including the Arab nation to support the Palestinian resistance and restore dignity and honor to the Muslims.

**Palestinian Camps in Lebanon on Strike To Protest Elections***NC2001123296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian camps in Lebanon staged a strike today to protest the first general elections to be held in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

The alliance of the 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement called for this strike. AFP reports that 11 out of 12 camps are heeding the strike call. The exception is the al-Rashidiyah Camp which is under the control of 'Arafat loyalist Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn. The agency also reported that the Palestinians had blocked the entrances to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp with metal barriers and tires.

The Palestinian groups' alliance issued a statement calling on the Palestinians inside the territories to

boycott the elections and said that getting the east Jerusalem Palestinians' to vote is one way to Judaize Jerusalem. It said all the humiliating conditions imposed on the elections are a stab in the back for the detainees in Israeli prisons and the nearly four million Palestinians in the diaspora.

**Israeli Shelling, Flights, Arrests in Lebanon Reported**

NC2101100196 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*  
0900 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension prevails in the southern areas after the Israeli escalation yesterday afternoon. We have more details in the following report by our correspondent in Tyre Qasim Safa:

[Begin Safa recording] Israeli acts of aggression against liberated southern villages in the western and central sectors overnight and at dawn today involved shelling, machine-gun raking, illumination flares, and helicopter flights. Enemy gunboats also cruised off the coast from al-Naqurah up to al-Sarafand. According to security sources, Israeli posts in Hula and al-Qantarrah directed heavy machine-gun fire at the outskirts of Tulin, Qabrikha, Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, and nearby valleys and forests at dawn today. The outer parts of Haddatha, Bra'shit, and Sribbin also came under machine-gun fire originating from enemy positions in the hills of Haddatha and Bra'shit. Helicopters flew over the villages adjacent to the occupied strip overnight, dropping flares. The helicopters were accompanied by reconnaissance planes.

Informed sources stressed that the Israeli occupation forces continue to raid, arrest, and question people, especially the members of agent Lahd's army [South Lebanese Army] who failed to obey orders to stand guard. The Lahd army is suffering from a collapse after the Lebanese judicial authorities issued an arrest warrant for agent Antoine Lahd. The sources said the occupation forces injected the Lahdist positions with Zionist soldiers and officers.

Israeli gunboats this morning directed machine-gun fire at the shore off Ra's al-'Ayn-al-Rashidiyah. Crossing points to the occupied areas were opened this morning after closure on Friday and Saturday. [end recording]

**Southern Areas in Lebanon Bombarded; SLA Members Desert**

NC2201070396 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*  
0530 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese officials are focusing on the south in light of continuing Israeli attacks. NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in the south

reported this morning that Israeli forces bombarded the areas of Kafr Tibnit, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Habbush, and Arnun last night. The enemy forces stepped up their shelling of western and central sector villages. Elsewhere, Israeli gunboats cruised off the coast between al-Naqurah and Sarafand.

Reports from the occupied strip say more members of the Agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] have deserted. Enemy intelligence officers arrested the deserters and interrogated them. The enemy forces deployed Israeli officers and soldiers in SLA positions to raise Agent morale after a warrant was issued for the arrest of Agent Lahd.

**Lebanon's Defense Minister Denies Any Covert Talks With Israel**

NC2001123896 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*  
1130 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has denied reports that there are covert agreements or talks with the Israeli enemy. He said that Lebanon participated in the Madrid negotiations openly and clearly on the basis of Security Council Resolution 425 and will not deviate from this path. He added that nothing is going on covertly, and such talk only aims to distort the situation.

Dallul called for strengthening the civil reconciliation process in order to be able to deal with the impending challenges in our coordination with Syria. He said that we have to wait for the outcome of the next round of negotiations on the Syrian peace track before we can decide on our future steps.

He added that European interest in the Lebanese track is a positive factor for Lebanon because our country thus will not be isolated by the new world order. [passage omitted]

**Pro-Israel Party Leader in Lebanon Indicted for Israel Contacts**

NC1901182596 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*  
1630 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Magistrate Riyadh Tali', the first military investigating judge, today issued an indictment against Etienne Saqr, alias Abu-Arz, leader of the Guardians of the Cedar Party. The judge demanded a death penalty against Saqr. He also referred him to the Standing Military Court for trial on charges of contacting the Israeli enemy and continuously visiting Israel.

**Lebanon's Buwayz Discusses SLA Future, Lahd Status**

*NC1901192996 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cypriot Foreign Minister Alexandros Mikhailidhis met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today. He voiced his country's readiness to host any peace negotiations between Lebanon and Israel in the future.

Responding to a question about the trucks impounded in Turkey that were carrying weapons bound for Lebanon, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: So far the Foreign Ministry has not received any information about this issue. We do not have anything to add to what was published in the press. We will discuss the issue when we receive enough information.

To another question about Israel's suggestion to merge the South Lebanese Army [SLA] [with the Lebanese army] after the settlement stage, Buwayz said that this is an Israeli stance that does not concern Lebanon. He added: What concerns us is our interest and we will deal with this issue on such a basis.

Asked about the problem of SLA Commander Antoine Lahd, Buwayz said that we are currently in a state of enmity with Israel, and according to the law, any cooperation with Israel is prohibited. Therefore, the problem exists on such a basis.

**Lebanon's High-Level Officials Return from Damascus**

*NC2101194696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening after participating in a memorial service in al-Qardahah on the second anniversary of the death of Staff Major Basil al-Asad. The three leaders met with President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. They discussed developments in the peace process and enhancing joint coordination of their stances.

**France's de Charette on French Role in Lebanon, Region**

*BR2201112696 (Internet) French Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in French 18 Jan 96*

[Interview with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette by unidentified French correspondents in Beirut, Lebanon on 16 January 1996]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Why are you only visiting Beirut and Damascus?

[De Charette] Who could have told you such things, which have absolutely no bearing on reality. None. None whatsoever.

For reasons dictated by circumstances and for practical reasons I have divided my tour to the Middle East into several stages, and that is why things turned out this way. However, I also experienced that, after all, it is better to give oneself some time, and that is something I do not have much of at the moment. There is plenty of work to be done with the problems currently arising. Nonetheless within this limit I want to take as much time as possible and dedicate it to each of my dialogue partners. Of course you know that Lebanon occupies a unique place on my agenda.

[Correspondent] Minister, when you left your recent meeting with Mr. Bouez you spoke of France's determination to play a role in the Middle East. Can you explain to us whether France is currently submitting proposals, repositioning its place within this region, or conducting a deliberate policy of intensifying its presence within the context of the peace process — a process which everyone since Madrid has agreed is dominated by the United States?

[De Charette] There is not enough time now to go into everything in detail. Tomorrow I will give a news conference at which there will be enough time to treat all these matters at leisure. But having said that I can say a few words in response to your question. France has decided to resume playing an active role in the Near and Middle East. It is doing so in view of its numerous friendships in this part of the world, because of its interests here, and it is doing so with a sharpened awareness of the fact that a new era is dawning for this Mediterranean region. That is why we started the ball rolling. The president of the Republic was the driving force behind many of the decisions made at the European Council summit in Cannes, namely to earmark a large sum of money — \$6 billion — over the next five years for the development of the southern Mediterranean region. That is why we played an extremely active role in committing ourselves to the project, then to the organization of the Barcelona Conference, which was a



French initiative carried out jointly by the French and Spanish that marked the beginning of a really new phase of Mediterranean history. That is why we have decided to make our presence in the Near East more strongly felt than before, and that is why I am in Lebanon now, responding, as you will recall, to President al-Hirawi's visit to Paris last June, [Prime Minister] al-Hariri's trip to Paris in July, the recent contact between Mr. al-Hariri and the president of the Republic in December, Mr. Seguin's visit to the region, my various visits, and in particular, the visit I am paying today.

[Correspondent] Once again we get the impression that France is trying to intensify its presence.

[De Charette] That is the foreign policy of the new seven-year presidency.

[Correspondent] What about the mission to Iraq, the mission to Eritrea and Yemen, and so on?

[De Charette] Yes, I repeat, that is the foreign policy of the new presidency which has just begun. It is very clear that in the future France's ambition is to conduct an active Arab policy. That is yet another aspect of the matter. I could also list all the initiatives that France has taken with regard to Turkey, another country to which we attach great importance. It is a whole series of initiatives, not a single one.

[Correspondent] Can you please explain to us in slightly more detail what you mean by the various guarantees, more particularly, the security guarantees in southern Lebanon, and France's participation?

[De Charette] To tell you the truth that is rather a difficult thing to do at the moment, even before the peace talks between Israel and Lebanon have started. You are asking me how all this will turn out. I do not know. First of all the talks must begin. However, we did tell our partners, and in particular our Lebanese friends, that we are ready, if they so desire, to contribute to the security measures agreed upon by all parties involved within the context of the peace process. So what form might these guarantees take? It is too early to say. However, I will say this: First of all the peace process must get off the ground, the decisions concerning the security guarantees must be made, and of course France must be asked to make a contribution, because it does not want to force anything on anyone. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Would you agree to France's participation [in a security force] if Lebanon made a request to this effect for the south of the country, or Israel? How could this rather ambiguous diplomatic position be justified and contribute to a solution of the problem in southern Lebanon? You know that Israel's demands do not correspond to Lebanon's. How do you envision

France participating in a peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon while honoring its military commitments to both Tel Aviv and Beirut?

[De Charette] The French position is not ambiguous. It would be if we were saying one thing to one side and another thing to the other side. But I have seen that Lebanese journalists, who are very well informed, are well aware of what I emphasized in Israel itself, namely the key importance that we attach to Lebanon's integrity and sovereignty. And naturally peace, which will of course be obtained via the full implementation of Resolution 425 which you mentioned. It may be accompanied by security measures and guarantees given to one side or the other. Let the negotiators start their talks, maybe agree on an appropriate mechanism, and then turn back to their partners, with France prepared to figure among them, and ask them to help them implement a solution.

[Correspondent] The impression we are getting is that everything is being done by the United States, Israel, and Syria without the Lebanese knowing about it and even behind their backs. In this context are there any French-U.S. agreements aimed specifically at safeguarding Lebanon's position in the upcoming period of peace?

[De Charette] Nothing will be done in Lebanon that I have not discussed and decided on in conjunction with the Lebanese. And you may rest assured that France has all kinds of contacts with all the partners concerned, because its contribution is a contribution to peace, a peace that must be just if it is to be long-lasting. And a just peace means that Lebanon must see its sovereignty and integrity fully respected. The line of argument is very simple. I acknowledge that you have questions about the practical details, but I know how journalists work, I understand them, they would like to see the problem resolved before it arises, and so far the diplomats have failed to accomplish this. Of course, they would like to see that happen too, so first of all they are obliged to raise the problem and then seek advice, solutions, and fora in which to discuss the issues. Then, when a solution has been reached, they must see how it can be implemented. So today we are at the beginning, we are laying down the principles; but there will be no solutions unless we start off by stating these principles quite clearly, principles to which all the parties involved agree and on which they can base their understanding of each other's position. Our principles are extremely clear. I have just said so in a manner I believe to be clear, because it is on the basis of these principles that we are working. When you ask me what the final solution is, I am not yet in a position to say. It is premature to ask me this because I simply



do not know. But I believe that France is playing an important role because effectively the very close bonds of friendship between our country and Lebanon mean that we have a sacred duty to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and integrity. At the same time I think that the genuine, sincere friendships that France enjoys with all the partners, including Syria, where I will be going tomorrow, lends credibility to what we are saying and lends weight to our proposals. So there you have it. We are doing all this, I repeat, with the intention of doing Lebanon a service, playing a useful role in the region, representing French interests, and boosting France's influence in this part of the world.

[Correspondent] Tomorrow you are going to Damascus. Is France's traditional, special sympathy with Lebanon not causing problems when it comes to your relations with the Syrians, who enjoy much influence in Lebanon?

[De Charette] Listen, that is a question you should put to the Syrians. All I can say is this: I have met with

the Syrian foreign minister on several occasions since I was appointed foreign minister. In particular I met with him in Barcelona and we had a talk. I met with President Khaddam [title as received] when he came to Paris three weeks ago, I believe. We had a very extensive exchange of views. I said nothing then that was different from what I have just told you, and my feeling is that my dialogue partners understand France's position and have nothing against it.

Moreover, I have heard what they said and I have read the statements they made, and — unless you can prove the opposite to be the case — their remarks and statements do not contradict what I am saying either. So we will see what happens. I hold that France also intends to have close, friendly relations with Syria.

**Syrian Papers Welcome Christopher Remarks,  
Urge 'In-Depth' Talks**

*JN2101104396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio  
Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH says in its commentary that there will be no peace without Syria and that Syria has the key to full peace. These are the words of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The one who has the key to peace has the capability to safeguard it. This is Syria, which is truly seeking a peace that will not keep the region captive to illogical strategies.

AL-BA'TH adds: The chief of U.S. diplomacy acknowledged that only an agreement on the Syrian track will guarantee the establishment of comprehensive peace in the region. This is a clear sign of U.S. support for the trends aimed at completing the peace process on solid ground based on full peace in return for full withdrawal.

AL-BA'TH says: When a senior Israeli official such as Shim'on Peres admits that peace, in his view, is more important than the results of the elections, this is seen as encouragement to the optimistic people and a relinquishment of the arrogance which Israeli officials used to show.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria, which adopted peace as an objective, will not obstruct the peace process or the efforts aimed at completing it and rendering it a success. However, everything depends on the Israeli side. The Madrid conference convened on the basis of the U.S. initiative, calling for exchanging land for peace. When Syria agreed to embark on the peace talks its condition was that full withdrawal should be in exchange for full peace. Syria's only conditions were approved by the Security Council. Syria did not decide to freeze or suspend the talks, however, the other party rejected a fair equation and a complete and just peace.

AL-THAWRAH says in its commentary: Syria has adopted peace as its strategic option and clearly presented the principle of full peace for full withdrawal in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. This, the paper adds, has placed Israel face to face with the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. Either it shows commitment to these requirements or stays in the trench opposing and confronting this peace. This, in itself, is a move and stand that will keep the ball in the Israeli court and place the U.S. sponsor before its responsibilities and before its pledges and assurances toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in this region.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says that in its honest endeavor to achieve an honorable peace that safeguards justice and dignity, Syria does not succumb to external pressure and effects, is not afraid, and is not frightened by anybody.

Under the headline "The Real Hope," TISHRIN says in its commentary: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said there is real hope that Syria and Israel will reach an agreement this year. Christopher adds that the talks which were held between the two sides in the United States, in addition to his visit to the region are promising in terms of results and climate. TISHRIN notes that the U.S. secretary's optimism shows, without any doubt, that there is a precious and real opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Peace with Syria means full and comprehensive peace, because the Syrian track is the key to completing the cycle of peace.

TISHRIN adds that in order to reinforce and spread the atmosphere of optimism, the next round of the Maryland talks should consist of in-depth discussion of the essence and basis of the peace process. The Maryland talks should proceed from the positive ideas and concepts toward the principles and bases of the peace process, which are based on implementing the international legitimacy resolutions, to reach serious agreement on the security arrangements in a balanced [mutawazin], equitable [mutakafi], and equal way.

The paper adds that in order to benefit from the opportunities which are provided by the results of U.S. Secretary Christopher's tour, and to invest the climate of the Maryland talks, there should be no time wasted, so that 1996 will be rightfully and seriously the year of peace on the Syrian track. This depends on Israel's seriousness in this regard and on what it offers in terms of full readiness and commitment to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon. This is particularly so since Syria has fully responded to all the requirements of a real, just, and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says that peace can only be achieved by ending occupation, giving each party its rights, and guaranteeing the security of all parties involved in the peace process without achieving one party's security at the expense of the other party's security. This is based on the principle of full peace for full withdrawal and the setting up of equal and equitable security arrangements on both sides after Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines.

**Syrian Press: New Round of Wye Talks To Remove Further Obstacles***JN2201093596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Jan 96*

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Next Round of Talks," AL-BA'TH says: The peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track will be resumed 24 January amid a consensus of views that this is the most important track in the peace process and that if real progress takes place in the next round of talks, the chances of achieving a just, comprehensive peace will be bolstered.

AL-BA'TH stresses that for the forthcoming Maryland talks to achieve the supposed progress, the talks must address the substantive issue for the sake of which the talks are held, which is withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Madrid formula. Concerning the security issue, it must be equal [mutasawiyah], parallel [mutawaziyah], and equitable [mutakafi'ah]. It is impermissible for any party to achieve gains at the expense of the other.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says that Syria has frequently stressed that it is possible to establish a just, comprehensive peace within a very short time if the concerned parties' intentions are sincere and if they clearly and precisely respond to the requirements of genuine peace. The road to peace is now very clear. Israel must abandon the previous policies which wasted a great deal of time without any use. If Israel decides to announce its commitment to the implementation of the requirements of peace, then the next Maryland talks will undoubtedly enable the peace process to arrive at its supposed objectives.

Under the headline "The Peace Credibility," TISHRIN says that Syria has made it clear on every occasion that it is interested in arriving at a genuine, just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East. Syria also declared on every occasion that peace prospects will be greatly enhanced if Israel announces explicit commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan and its acceptance of the principle of equitable security arrangements after withdrawal.

TISHRIN says that some Israelis emphasize the time factor and the forthcoming elections to demand Syria offer concessions. This allegation is self-defeating. Syria has not wasted time and has not placed obstacles before international efforts. Syria's, only condition for the achievement of peace is the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and respecting the principles of international law. If the time factor

has become pressing, then the Israeli Government is supposed to clearly and quickly respond to the requirements of peace, led by full withdrawal.

TISHRIN adds: As a reminder, we say that Resolution 242 deems it impermissible to seize others' territory by force and provides for full withdrawal from the occupied territories.

TISHRIN notes that the recent two rounds of Syrian-Israeli talks in Maryland gave the peace process some momentum, contrary to the earlier rounds, when Israel placed impossible security conditions with no objective but to obstruct the aspired progress on the Syrian track. The next round of talks is supposed to remove further obstacles, especially since the focus will be on security arrangements.

TISHRIN points out that Syria had agreed to such arrangements from the outset, on condition that they be even [muta'adilah] and equitable, and do not harm Syria's sovereignty over its national soil. Axiomatically, peace must ensure everyone's interests and must not disturb one party's security in favor of the other party.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that Syria has repeatedly made it clear that peace is a strategic option and has accompanied words with deeds. While Israel is showing greater readiness for peace, intentions alone are not enough to make peace. Intentions must be translated into deeds on the ground.

**Syrian Press Says Progress in Upcoming Talks Depends on Israel***JN2001082696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the political page, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the peace process, saying that viable peace has to be just and comprehensive. If it is really seeking a just peace, Israel must subscribe to the essence of the peace process; namely, complete withdrawal in exchange for full peace.

On the "Views and Studies" page, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the "Arab Media: Between Reality and Ambition" seminar held in Sanaa.

TISHRIN also addresses the expansion of the UN Security Council. It says this expansion will rehabilitate fairness and restore balance to the international scene. The paper notes the big powers' control of the United Nations.

In a major commentary today, TISHRIN says that Syria has done its utmost to render the peace process a success

and rescue this process from collapse. The paper adds: Now that the Syrian-Israeli-U.S. talks in Maryland have completed the exploratory stage and have identified the points of agreement and disagreement, the talks slated for 24 January are expected to address basic issues; namely, complete withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, peace, and security arrangements.

The paper adds: Given its inalienable right to its territory and water resources and supported by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, Syria is sticking to its demand that Israel should withdraw completely. There is no way to achieve a just, firm, and durable peace while part of the Golan is occupied. Moreover, Syria adheres to even [muta'adilah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements, because peace must respect the interests and security of both sides. Given the fact that it has wasted immense effort over a long period of time, Israel is now required to respond favorably and openly to the requirements and terms of peace, chief among which is complete withdrawal. The sooner Israel makes such a response, the more progress will be achieved at the Maryland talks. Such progress could be qualitative and, as such, produce an agreement this year.

In conclusion, TISHRIN says: It is true that some Israeli officials have expressed optimism and have acknowledged Syria's honesty in its pursuit of peace. However, other Israeli officials have continued to dance to old tunes, such as the unwillingness to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders. This can only create a climate of confusion and suspicion. Such a climate will not serve the peace process at all. As a matter of fact, such a climate is detrimental to this process, which needs clear positions, a redirection of its course, firmness, and unquestionable compliance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. Peace will be possible to achieve if Israel demonstrates commitment and translates this commitment into concrete moves on the ground.

In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says the European delegations currently visiting the region are looking forward to an effective and vigorous role for Europe in the peace process. The paper adds: Syria has always embraced an effective European role in the peace process. It has always hoped that such a role, which Israel has never welcomed, will help advance this process toward its objective, which is the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, a peace that will give all of the parties what is lawfully theirs. Damascus has been an important stop in the recent tours of the region by senior European delegations because these delegations believe that Damascus holds the key to peace. Everybody, including the EU, is well

aware that Syria is seeking a just and comprehensive peace that is grounded in international legitimacy, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and the land-for-peace formula. Such a peace must produce an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and a withdrawal from southern Lebanon. In the same vein, it must produce parallel [mutawaziyah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements. The security of either party must not be promoted to the detriment of the other.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Damascus has always welcomed a vigorous role by the EU in the peace process, which has made progress in the wake of the Maryland talks. Greater and more tangible progress is conceivable if Israel complies with the bases and principles of this process. If this happens, the peace process can achieve its objective, which is the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace on the Syrian track, and, consequently, on the Lebanese track. It should be recalled that the bases of this process, launched in Madrid, are UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the principle of exchanging territory for peace.

#### **Damascus Radio: Israel Can Make 'Serious Contribution' to Peace**

JN2001195496 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: If we assess the peace process after its long march from Madrid, we will find that a just and comprehensive peace is impossible without Syria, that peace with Syria and Lebanon is also impossible without a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and that Syria is firmly committed to achieving the peace of the brave that is based on Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace. At the same time, Syria will never relinquish any land or bargain over any national or pan-Arab right.

We spell out these facts at this stage to assert that as the Maryland talks are approaching, Syria is looking forward to peace as a strategic option and is also eager to see the United States succeed in its extensive efforts to achieve major progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. These points should be viewed as extremely important when the U.S.-sponsored Syrian-Israeli talks resume in Wye Plantation. The United States had decided to enter the talks as an effective partner and a fair mediator, and to work to accelerate the talks.



All this certainly requires an Israeli decision to carry out a total withdrawal from the Golan and accept the requirements of mutual security based on equality [tasawi] and equitability [takafu] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 border. Optimism should be supported by positive positions to open the way for tangible progress and achieve the goals of the talks without obstacles or mines.

Undoubtedly, no one can foresee the results of the talks, but we hope that the atmosphere of optimism will produce positive signs to overcome the obstacles and remove the mines in order to be able to bridge the gap and overcome all the difficulties, which have so far been created by Israel's refusal to abide by the principle of a total withdrawal for comprehensive peace. Total withdrawal is the key to progress, and much effort will be needed to discuss the elements of peace. U.S. intervention will also help in reaching concrete progress through Israel's response to the Security Council's resolutions and the requirements of peace.

Neither a positive atmosphere and views, nor signs of optimism will lead to realistic progress unless words are translated into deeds; unless Israel casts off its skepticism; and unless Israeli officials abandon their hesitation, contradictory statements, and their game of pulse-taking. Peace requires a decision, and Syria has made such a decision. Peace, as President Hafiz al-Asad has asserted, is a Syrian requirement and can be attained when the rights of all parties are achieved and when the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy are met.

If it is serious about achieving a just and comprehensive peace; if it is committed to the bases of peace; and if it is ready to carry out a total withdrawal and to take realistic positions, Israel can make a serious contribution toward attaining a just and comprehensive peace in the interest of all peoples in the region and the world at large.

#### **Damascus Radio Urges Israel To Respond to Requirements of Peace**

*JN1901155396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: President Hafiz al-Asad said that a just and comprehensive peace in the region is a Syrian demand and that it is possible to achieve peace if Israel responds to its requirements and to the resolutions of international legitimacy. This came during President al-Asad's meeting with the French foreign minister. President al-Asad welcomed a more effective French role in the peace process.

A review of President al-Asad's statements throughout the past years reveals his strong desire to mobilize international support for efforts to achieve a just peace. This is especially significant since the issue of peace in the region does not concern the region's people alone, but has also become an international affair. This is due to the importance of the Middle East, the interconnection of broad interests in it, and the reflection of events and developments in this region on international peace and relaxation.

All observers and politicians agree that Syria's participation in the peace process is basic and that it is impossible to achieve the desired solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict without Syria. Hence, it is not strange that Damascus is witnessing all this intensive political activity and that international politicians and officials visit it. This is especially significant since Syria proved through words and deeds its readiness to achieve a lasting and firm peace, exerted broad efforts in this direction, and repeatedly rescued the peace process from deterioration and collapse.

Hopes for peace nowadays seem stronger than ever before. After the Syrian-Israeli-U.S. talks in Maryland and the stage of exploring stands, talks during the next round slated for 24 January are expected to focus on essential peace issues; that is, a full withdrawal from the Golan, security arrangements, and peace.

Syria did not hide its viewpoint that peace is possible this year if Israel truly responds to its conditions and requirements contained in the resolutions of international legitimacy. For the sake of achieving peace, Syria is only demanding Israel's full withdrawal, the restoration of the Golan, and Lebanon's restoration of its southern region. This requires the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines. Furthermore, Syria adheres to equitable [mutakafi'ah] and even [muta'adilah] security arrangements. This should end the fears of both sides, given that peace is the ideal guarantee for security. Inasmuch as Israel responds to these two essential conditions and submits to Syria's just demands and firm rights to its territories and waters, the peace process will achieve progress and overcome all obstacles. There is no doubt that the achievement of a firm peace depends on Israel and its renunciation of the expansionist policy and of ambitions in others' territories. If Syria's stands are clear, this does not mean that a similar judgment can be passed on Israel's stands. Israel's politicians sometimes make conflicting statements. Some of these statements lean toward pacification and recognizing Syria's firm right while other statements show a spirit of expansionism and smack of superiority.

It is natural that these statements raise legitimate worry. Syria is fully determined to achieve peace, but it will never relinquish and iota of its soil or any of its rights. The return of occupied territories to their owners and the restoration of justice are among the natural results of a just peace.

**Syrian Press Calls Palestinian Elections  
'Undemocratic'**

NC2101123796 Paris AFP in English  
1202 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Jan 21 (AFP) — Syria on Sunday [21 January] criticized the Palestinian elections as being neither free nor democratic, saying they did not express the true will of the Palestinian people.

"The elections for an autonomy council were the opposite of democracy, liberty and the true expression of the desires of the Palestinian people," the Ba'th ruling party's newspaper said.

Saturday's elections were "undemocratic, despite the propaganda campaigns led by the backers of the autonomy accord, the monitoring commissions, as well as the claims that the elections would lead to the creation of a Palestinian state," AL-BA'TH said.

"The results of these elections were known in advance, and the victory was solely that of the backers of the accord, excluding any forces opposed to this accord or any attempt to satisfy the interests of all Palestinians," the paper said.

It also denounced the "group which abandoned the Palestinian cause for an autonomy that, in the best circumstances, will only include municipalities and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Syria, which resumes peace negotiations with Israel on Wednesday, has repeatedly denounced the Israel-PLO autonomy accords signed in September 1993, but has promised the United States that it would not attempt to torpedo the process.

The main Palestinian groups opposed to the autonomy accords are based in Damascus and have boycotted the election and vowed to continue the armed struggle against Israel.

More than 80 percent of Palestinians voted in the elections on Saturday, overwhelmingly choosing PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as their president.

**Syrian Daily Assails Qatar for Departing From  
'Arab Ranks'**

JN2001160896 Damascus SANA in Arabic  
0830 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 20 Jan (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has criticized the State of Qatar for choosing certain reactions regardless of how they may harm it, the Gulf states, and the Arab nation. The paper points out that Qatar's border differences with this or that state of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] have caused it to depart from the GCC framework and use various means to harm its brother countries without taking into account the serious repercussions these tactics will produce.

In an editorial today by editor in chief 'Amid al-Khuli, the newspaper says Qatar, prompted by its anger with its Gulf brothers, is departing from the Arab ranks without knowing that it is necessarily heading toward the opposite camp, the camp of the enemies. Thus, without making appropriate calculations, Qatar is throwing itself into the lap of those who do not want to see it in good shape. It is also establishing off-the-cuff relations that are of no use to itself, to the Gulf, and to the Arabs.

The paper stresses that it is natural for one who departs from his kinfolk to often throw itself into a hostile lap, and that if Qatar's current policy of departing from the Gulf and pan-Arab framework continues, it will necessarily find itself in the lap of the enemies of the Arab nation. Any regime changing its stripes will find itself completely naked and will have no choice but to offer what satisfies the others.

The newspaper wonders if Qatar has gained anything from this policy since it fabricated battles with its brothers — whether it is looking for battles in order to head in the opposite direction, or if these battles have forced it into the opposing trench. In both these cases, however, the result will be very painful.

The newspaper expresses its belief that none of the brothers in Qatar will accept this situation or its consequences or play a role they were not meant for. The paper also expresses its fear that the brothers in Qatar will take pleasure in this unilateral political move and be pushed toward a dark and endless road.

The newspaper also says that trying to play the Gulf opposition card in any of the Gulf states is dangerous and will harm everyone, especially since the whole infrastructure has no objective qualifications to endure such a precedent.

The paper says that regardless of the pretexts used to promote it, this situation will harm everyone and will

shake the entire society. He who alleges that he cares for human rights in the Gulf states should first take care of the rights of his own father in his country.

Concluding its editorial, the newspaper voices its hope that the Qatari brothers will carefully consider their pan-Arab and national conscience before making any decision or taking any step.

**Syria's al-Asad Receives High-Level Lebanon Officials**

*JN2101172996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi as well as Nabih Birri, the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Rafiq al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister, at the Presidential Palace in Latakia at 1200 today.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Al-Hirawi, Birri, and al-Hariri conveyed to the president their condolences on the 2d anniversary on the death of Staff Major Basil al-Asad.

Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today visited the tomb of Staff Maj. Basil al-Asad in al-Qardahah on the 2d anniversary of his death.

The three Lebanese officials have arrived at Martyr Basil al-Asad Airport. They were received at the airport by Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

## Afghanistan

### Rabbani Says 'Foreign Interference' Impeding Peace

LD2001210796 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto* 1530 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] [Borhanoddin Rabbani] said that what impeded the restoration of peace in our war-stricken country was foreign interference. The presidential press office reported to BAKHTAR that the esteemed president of our country expressed this in an interview with [word indistinct] Safiri, an IRNA correspondent. [words indistinct] answering a question the esteemed president said: After the High State Council statement, the ISA has sent separate delegations for talks with opponents and it is planned to expand this course of conduct in order to prepare the ground for intra-Afghan understanding. Not only do the ISA and the people of Afghanistan attach much importance to the restoration of peace, but they also will not spare any effort to achieve this glorious goal. On the need for the ensuring and development of regional cooperation, he said: Regional countries are now facing many problems and no country in the region can on its own overcome the [words indistinct] problems. What can raise these countries to higher socio-economic and cultural levels is the establishment and development of regional cooperation and as a [words indistinct] center, the ECO can play an effective role in this respect.

### Afghan Official Calls on Muslims To Thwart U.S. Plots

LD1501143996 *Tehran IRNA in English* 1327 GMT 15 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan 15, IRNA — Head of the Supreme Supervisory Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan Ayatollah Fazel called on the Muslim world to show serious reaction to Washington's recent plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking to IRNA here on Sunday, he added that reactions of the committed Muslims could thwart all terrorist acts of the U.S. and the Zionists. He said it was incumbent upon Muslims to announce their hatred of such plots.

Noting the recent allotment of 20 million dollars by the U.S. Congress for subversive operations against Iran is considered as a sign of Washington's helplessness and disgrace.

The Afghan Muslim leader also described the recent U.S. act as a sign of the failure of previous plots hatched by Washington against Iran.

He stressed that the U.S.'s hostile acts would only lead to the flourishing of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to turning the country into a symbol of steadfastness vis-a-vis enemies of Islam.

### Afghan President Criticizes U.S. Moves Against Iran

LD1901164196 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1530 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Afghan president has described the allocation of a budget by the U.S. to conduct terrorist operations in Iran as a blatant interference in the internal affairs of an independent country. In an interview with our correspondent, Borhanoddin Rabbani stated: This American act is contrary to the efforts made by world states and bodies aimed at maintaining peace and security in the world. The act, he continued, will only deteriorate tensions throughout the world.

Appreciating the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore peace in his country, Mr. Rabbani pointed out: Iranian officials' endeavors have been made at a difficult time and have played a constructive role in the developments in Afghanistan. As a result of these efforts many Afghan groups now enjoy relations.

Mr. Rabbani also called for Iran's mediation to improve the Afghan-Pakistani ties.

### Afghan Government Statement on Ramadan, Cease-Fire

LD2101212396 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto* 1530 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Statement of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] on the occasion of the month of Ramadan, 21 January.

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Dear compatriots, sisters and brothers, peace and the blessing of God be upon you. The ISA congratulates you and all Muslims in the world on the occasion of the auspicious month of Ramadan. [passage indistinct]

The president of the country is ready to go to their bases and hold direct talks with their leaders, which has surely motivated the peace process. We hope that through these efforts all differences will be fundamentally resolved and an atmosphere of trust and understanding will come about between all Afghans.

The government was not content with expressing just readiness, but it also sent delegations to Mazar-e Sharif, Bamian, Jalalabad, and Kandahar, and thereby practically started talks with the involved sides. It should be noted that a considerable advance has been made during the talks and meetings.



Dear compatriots, it has been explained on many occasions that the problems in the country have a foreign cause. Pursuing its peaceful policy, the ISA wants no interference in one another's affairs and desires mutual respect between countries. On the basis of this policy, we have repeatedly said that mutually beneficial relations between countries are in the interest of peace and security. In this auspicious month we once again sincerely raise the peace-seeking voice of the brave and gallant sons of this country. We want friendly relations with all countries, especially our neighbors. It is in the interest of the people of this region to seek ways of assistance and cooperation instead of interference in one another's affairs.

Dear compatriots, Islamic ethics require that we do away with all hostilities during the auspicious month of Ramadan. The teaching of Islam is to make efforts to strengthen feelings of assistance, sympathy and brotherhood, instead of hostility and confrontation. The ISA once again calls on the esteemed jihadi leaders, commanders, religious scholars and esteemed social personalities to make sincere efforts for the establishment of an atmosphere of understanding and trust for the resolution of differences, as an Islamic and historic mission. We once again tell all involved sides that the state is ready to continue talks until the achievement of a universal agreement and understanding. Our only wish is the restoration of peace and security as soon as possible.

So far as the subject of the state leadership and the transfer of power is concerned, the esteemed president has repeatedly announced that the state leadership is not the property of a person or a group. [break in reception] In its recent talks with the UN special envoy, the state (?asked) him to speed up his efforts, as regards the cessation of foreign interference and the establishment of a mechanism that will be acceptable to all, leading to a decision on the transfer of power. [passage omitted]

We clearly say that once Afghans sit at the negotiating table they can very well do away with the current problems, start the reconstruction of their ruined country, Afghanistan, and restore peace and security in their country. We once again congratulate you, dear compatriots, on the occasion of this auspicious month and wish from God that hostility will be eliminated from this land for good, and that peace, security, and fraternity will be restored to this country. Success comes from God.

#### **Paper Reports Clashes Between Rival Taleban Groups**

*LD2101162396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports reaching here from Kabul speak of heavy clashes between two rival Taleban groups, and the clashes are continuing. According to a report by IRNA, the MUJAHID weekly, an organ of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami, quoting eyewitnesses, reported yesterday that two Taleban groups, led by Mullah Mohammad 'Omar and Mullah Borjan, have started bloody clashes in Kandahar Province. The weekly says: In the course of the bloody clashes so far, dozens have been killed on both sides. The weekly said that the cause of the fighting between the rival groups was differences on their stances on talks with President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government to resolve the problems in the country and on their attempts to achieve more power.

Mullah Mohammad 'Omar wants talks and understanding with the Afghan government to end fighting in the country. But the group's two other leaders, Mullah Borjan and Mullah Ehsanollah, insist on the continuation of fighting. Another group, led by Mullah Rabbani, has chosen a neutral stance.

The rivalry between two Taleban groups has so far led to bloody clashes between them in some provinces and the two sides are retaliating against one another by attacking each other's bases. As a result of the clashes so far, four arms and ammunition dumps have been blown up in the provinces of Kandahar, Ghazni, Vardak and Lowgar and a number of planes and helicopters have caught fire in Kandahar airport and in its air space. This report has not been confirmed by another source.

#### **Jalalabad-Kabul Road Reportedly Reopened**

*LD2201110996 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 22 Jan 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan. 22, IRNA — The highway linking Jalalabad to Kabul, closed since last Wednesday, has been reopened to passengers, but the trucks carrying foodstuff, fuel, and other necessities have not yet been given permission to travel to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

The Nangarhar Jihad Council, which is removing all checkpoints in this province, east of Afghanistan, said Sunday evening that it will prevent the travel of trucks carrying goods to Kabul until a customs office and a center for receiving tolls is set up.

The council said that the measure is in the interest of people and will bring about economic stability, adding that only one Afghan authority should receive

the duties levied on the goods heading for Kabul and other destinations.

Hezb-e Islami (Islamic Party) led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has also announced that, by removing the party's illegal checkpoints, the highway linking Jalalabad to Kabul will soon be reopened to trucks.

### India

#### Editorial Urges Indian Government To Deploy Prithvi Missile

BK2001105296 *Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES*  
in English 19 Jan 96 p 13

[Editorial: "Deploy It"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are times when even well-meaning friends, when they get too strident, have to be told to get off. The latest sermon from Washington goes well beyond that limit. A U.S. Defense Department spokesman on Wednesday sought to advise India against going ahead with the deployment of the Prithvi missile on the ground that it would "create new tensions" in the region. It is open to argument as to why similar apprehensions did not surface in Washington while finalising the decision on fresh arms supplies to Pakistan recently. Nor does there seem to be any appreciation of the Indian threat perceptions which in due China with which this country has a still unresolved border dispute. In addition, India has to cope with the reality of new weapons know how that Pakistan has been receiving from China. If anything, it is the huge share of defence expenditure in Pakistan's budget that should be worrying Washington.

Developing Prithvi is one way to keep the country's defence spending within reasonable limits. Obviously, indigenous development of defence technologies cannot be to the liking of the world's arms dealers. They prefer nothing better than creating Third World dependencies, and thrive on their perpetuation. Thwarting the deployment of Prithvi, as the U.S. wants done, would render all the resources and effort the country has put into this project into a pointless exercise. Moreover, it would be greatly demoralising for cadres of dedicated scientists who have brought it to fruition. Such a decision would also hamper the further development of defence technologies so necessary to enable the country to face the security needs of the twenty-first century. In view of the imperatives of national security, there is only one thing the Government can do with Prithvi — deploy it.

#### Indian Editorial Protests U.S. Involvement in Nuclear Issue

BK2101130096 *Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi*  
19 Jan 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Face-to-Face With U.S. Garrulity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps issuing provocative statements against developing countries, such as India, every two weeks or so is a feature of U.S. diplomacy. It is becoming necessary for the Clinton administration to do so, because this year will decide the fate of that administration. In addition to receiving an indefinite extension to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], it now intends to have the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] signed by everyone before the end of its term. India is already aloof from the NPT and has definite views about the CTBT. Issuing anti-India statements every couple of weeks is a part of the U.S. State Department's Indian arm-twisting policy to force India to sign the CTBT. It was under this policy that the U.S. State Department's official spokesperson, Nicholas Burns, issued two such statements in just one day. This time the United States clearly warned India that it should refrain from deploying its indigenously made Prithvi missile and should not conduct a nuclear test. If India does not heed the U.S. warning and continues with its missile or nuclear program, the United States, under the Glen modification, would be forced to take serious action against India. Secondly, it would use its influence in the United Nations to have all aid to India stopped immediately. The U.S. State Department spokesperson's first statement contained an objectionable assertion that despite the refusal of India and Pakistan to sign the NPT they are still bound by its conditions, and as such proceedings against them can be started under international law.

Now the question is: What should our answer be in response to this unilateral garrulity of the U.S. Administration, especially when our dignified silence merely enhances this U.S. jabber. Recently our interior minister charged the United States with encouraging terrorism in Kashmir, the U.S. Administration reacted by assuming a defensive stance. What requires serious contemplation is whether or not the extreme precaution that the Rao government is taking is favorable to our self-respect or interest. Why must we adopt this defensive stance? Of course we should not be as loud-mouthed as the United States, but in this age of aggressiveness our continued silence will serve no purpose. By breaking our silence and becoming vocal we would have two distinct advantages: First, we would be able to impress upon the international community the reality of the situation; and second, the morale of our

countrymen would be boosted significantly. We must not only continue with our defense program, but should also give a befitting answer to the frequent diplomatic assaults by the United States.

#### Article Examines India's Nuclear Position

BK2001125596 *Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA*  
in English 19 Jan 96 p 10

[Article by Pran Chopra]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] INFLUENTIAL Indian analysts believe that if India had decided to do so a few years ago, it could have achieved nuclear weapon status with much less risk of serious complications in its relations with other countries. But the risk, they add, will only increase with time because stiffer restrictions can be expected to be placed in future on the search for nuclear weapon status by countries which do not have it at present. Therefore they would like India to take its stand without wasting any more time.

As they see it the present choices before India are: First, it can forgo nuclear weapons unconditionally. Second, it can become a nuclear weapon country covertly and develop enough capability to hit back with nuclear weapons at any country which makes a nuclear attack upon it. Third, it can acquire this capability but under a veil which reveals enough to deter a potential opponent, so that the need for using the capability might never arise. Fourth, it can openly become a nuclear weapon country.

#### Uneasy Choice

None of these options is going to be easy, by itself. But the point being made below is that we need not stick to an either-or position. That would be neither wise nor affordable; and neither required by our principles nor by our security needs. Perhaps better would be a fifth option, a combination of some of the four but led by foreign policy, not by a nuclear drive.

The option to go nuclear has been treated as a national pledge for so long that the country might not agree to abandon it without a persuasive alternative, and wholly or partially covert nuclear weapon status would not be one. Nuclear weapon capability cannot remain hidden for long; and in any case if it is to deter it must reveal itself, at least partially. Therefore it would attract the same (or only marginally less) hostile reactions as open defiance of the proposed test ban regime would do. In fact, by attracting the additional charge of deception, a covert status would attract greater hostility. But a fifth option can be viable. In the proper circumstances, it can protect India's security interests without violating

its principles, and would probably attract much less hostility.

For years India has lived with nuclear asymmetry with the United States. This despite the fact that except Pakistan, the U.S. has been more hostile than any country to India's long-term security, diplomatic and economic interests. More hostile than China, despite the latter's attack in 1962, the purpose of which, though more sharply hostile, was more limited in time and space. India accepted asymmetry with the U.S. for two reasons. One, deterring the huge American (and Russian) arsenal was simply too big a job. Two, the bipolar world of those days presented, through diplomatic means, a kind of security that India could live with.

Of course India cannot accept asymmetry with Pakistan, because of its comprehensive and deep-seated hostility. That has to be the bottom line for India's defence. But above that line, can India accept asymmetry with China, given the right "diplomatic means"? And what would they be?

#### Mutual Consent

Obviously, the first would be that India and Pakistan should abjure nuclear weapons and satisfy each other that they have done so. If Pakistan does not agree, or if the technological means for providing such satisfaction do not exist, then no blame can fall upon India for refusing to give up its own right to build up its own deterrence. But if mutual abstinence with Pakistan is available, two further steps would permit India to accept asymmetry with China without detriment to its security and principles.

First, each nuclear weapon state must agree it would never be the first to use a nuclear weapon; and second, all nuclear weapon countries must agree, by a treaty underwritten by the United Nations, that any country which made a nuclear attack on another would be similarly treated by the other nuclear weapon countries.

These conditions would have the effect of banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by any country. They would also disarm the distinction between countries which can and countries which, cannot carry out nuclear tests or accumulate more fissile material.

Simultaneously with campaigning for such a nuclear environment, and all the more so if the first element is attained with Pakistan, India could also announce it would commit itself to, and remain faithful to, the ban regime as soon as the nuclear weapon countries committed themselves to, and as long as they remained faithful to, the two elements mentioned above. This would be better for India than to defy the ban first and



then promise to conform to it as soon as the nuclear weapon countries agreed to its conditions.

But in order to carry sufficient conviction with the rest of the world, this option would have to be backed by a unanimous resolution in Parliament. Without that, it would look like a devious device to buy time in order to stage open defiance of the bans at a time of India's choosing. On the other hand if the stand is convincing it is also more likely to succeed.

Few countries would agree that in the name of discrimination-free universality all should have the right to possess nuclear weapons. But many would agree that in a world in which some countries have them and others not. No country should have the right to use them, and any country which may have the ambition to use or to threaten to use them for its own purposes should be duly dealt with by all the rest acting under UN authority. India can also expect that many countries will not join in the sanctions which any country, for its own hegemonic reasons, might try to impose on any country which, having tried all other means, has been forced to fall back on its own nuclear deterrence capabilities.

India's overriding concern must of course be its own security, not the priorities of other countries, however moral or otherwise they might be. Therefore India should carefully and realistically examine what are the kinds of threats it is likely to face and what would be its best means of countering them. If nuclear weapons are the most likely threat and nuclear deterrence the only answer to them. Then the deterrence must be developed despite the costs, and efforts to develop it must be continued in the meantime.

#### **Fifth Option**

If the most likely threats are political subversion, encouragement to secessionists in Kashmir, and economic and technological deprivation, then it should be considered whether nuclear deterrence is the best answer, and whether these threats will be aggravated by the diplomatic chill which may follow if India took the path of nuclear deterrence before trying the alternatives offered by the fifth option.

Recent changes in the world of diplomacy have opened up room for the fifth option. Pakistan's nuclear designs, and the compulsions they have created for India, are better understood today. Secondly, more countries are beginning to recognise that at times America twists the arms of other countries more for American reasons than for more peace. Thirdly, more countries are feeling oppressed by such arm twisting. And finally, some of them are no longer as hopelessly dependent upon U.S.

approval of their actions as they used to be, and are better able to follow their own choices than they were before.

#### **Dhaka Assures No Anti-India Activities From Bangladesh**

*BK2001094196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh has assured India of its cooperation for [not] allowing its land for launching anti-India activities. The assurance was given by the Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, Mr. C.M. Shafi Sami, when he called on the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi today. Mr. Sami said his government is committed not to allow their territory for terrorist activities. Mr. Chavan expressed concern over reports of training camps for insurgents in Bangladesh and said a favorable situation for the return of Chakma refugees to their homeland should be created.

#### **Indian Article on Appointment of New Army Staff Chief in Pakistan**

*BK1901142396 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 18 Jan 96 p 13*

[Article by Pravin Sawhney: "Lessons From Across the Border: National Security Comes First"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The appointment of General Jehangir Karamat, 55, as 12th Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan on 13 January, 1996, has gone unnoticed in India. This shows the understanding of national security issues within the thinking community and the media in India, where everyone is crowing about arms acquisition by Pakistan, but no one has bothered to check the man behind Pakistan's national security policy. After all arms will be used to execute a military strategy, which is the responsibility of General Karamat. It is another matter that Pakistan's defence policy, especially the policy on Kashmir, nuclear capability and external threats, is the sole prerogative of the Army chief in Pakistan's kind of democracy.

General Karamat's career profile is indicative that he will take a tough stand on national security issues and will keep politics and fundamentalism away from military matters. This is best illustrated by General Waheed's refusal to except an extension offered by the president and the prime minister, and the ongoing court-martial of senior officers with fundamentalist proclivity. It is this aspect of political fear from the Army which saw Islamabad offering an extension to General Waheed that resulted in some confusion about his succession. It is also a pointer how much national political leadership understands their generals in Pakistan. The



well known Pakistani commentator Mushahid Hussain has put it mildly when he says, "the civilian decision-making process of appointing new Army chief was little confusing. They took too much time to decide the matter, which in normal course should not have happened."

General Karamat is General Abdul Waheed's choice and is certain to maintain continuity of policy in his three-year tenure. His approach, like that of his predecessors' will be no-nonsense. The emphasis will be on professionalism, training and welfare of troops. Pakistan Army will not get mired into the politicised civil war in Sind, it will further cement its strategic and defence relationship with China, and will continue to have a say in the Pentagon concerning the subcontinent. Remember when General Abdul Waheed went to Washington in 1995, he had said, "F-16's or no F-16's, Pakistan will not compromise on its national security" (read, give up nuclear weapons). A significant statement which revealed a head of home truths: The Army chief and not the prime minister of Pakistan has the last word on national security; Pakistan will not give up its nuclear weapon capability except on its terms; and a perceived "tilt" by the United States towards India will have an adverse effect on relations between Rawalpindi and Washington. The last will be unacceptable to the United States when Pakistan has assumed an important strategic role as a bridge to South Asia, South West Asia and Central Asia. General Karamat's tenure will witness a further hardening of the stand, because "soldiering is my ambition," as he told the media persons in Pakistan.

Consider his profile: Born, 20 February, 1941, commissioned into the armoured corps in October 1961: commanded 2 (offensive) corps in Multan; director general Military Operations and chief of General Staff at General Headquarters. Inference: General Karamat is a professional with experience of policy formulation and its execution in the field. He has held high appointments on staff in the field and at various schools of instructions. He fought in both the 1965 and 1971 wars. Such a person cannot suffer fools and is certain to check Islamisation of the Pakistan Army. General Karamat will be the opposite of General Aslam Beg, whose statements both in and out of office should be taken with extreme caution. For instance, it is unlikely that Pakistan has a national command authority for its nuclear weapon capability. Statements made by General Waheed leave no doubt that Pakistan's nuclear policy and its weapons capability is firmly with the Army.

Relations between India and Pakistan are not likely to improve under General Karamat because a professional soldier does not compromise. Moreover, General Karamat is a Punjabi, a state which contributes maximum numbers to the Pakistan Army. It is certain that like his

predecessor, General Karamat has total confidence and cooperation of his corps commanders.

Concerning relations with India, there will be no easy solutions on Siachen. The compromise formula of troops withdrawal suggested by India in January 1994 as confidence building measure on Siachen will not be acceptable to Pakistan. Like General Waheed, General Karamat will not delink a resolution of Siachen from Kashmir. Material support to the insurgents in Kashmir will continue. Pakistan Army will improve its professionalism because, unlike the Indian Army, it is clear in its threat perceptions and a requirement of acquisitions to ward-off the threat. Pakistan Army has recently done its bi-annual multi-corps exercise in December 1995. Troops from 2 corps, 31 corps and holding division of 5 corps participated in the exercise in general area Bahawalpur, which was witnessed by Prime Minister Bhutto. Pakistan Air Force conducted its multi-faceted exercises code named High-Mark-95 in October 1995. A new government in India in 1996 must take note of this important appointment made in Pakistan. There is a requirement in India to give priority to national security matters, review civil-military relations and let the military do its own job instead of others. There is need for training, which is the task of senior officers as much as the government.

#### **India Seeks Financing for Production of 100 Battle Tanks**

*BK2001111096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Around 100 Arjun Main Battle Tanks are to be produced initially. A Defense Ministry source said a proposal is being submitted to the cabinet committee on political affairs asking for around 1,500 crore rupees for the purpose. The first tank will be inducted next year. The tank was handed over to the Army by the prime minister a few days back.

#### **Indian Congress Spokesman Rejects Money Deal Charge Against Rao**

*BK2001094296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has denied any political motive behind the recent charge-sheets against some political leaders in the hawala [illegal money transfer] case.

In a statement in New Delhi today, the agency asserted that the charge-sheets have been filed after long painstaking probe monitored by the Supreme Court during the last three years. Denying that there has been any

interference in its investigation from any quarter, the CBI says its action is subject to judicial scrutiny.

The apex investigating agency said it is always guided by the directives of the Supreme Court and there is no question of any selective approach regarding the persons whose names figure in the Jain dairies. The bureau says that it has completed investigations against 10 political persons and 10 others in bureaucracy and public sector units. The probe with regard to other persons is at different stages of inquiry.

The Congress-I today categorically denied the involvement of the prime minister in the hawala case. Replying to queries from newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, rejected the allegation as absurd saying that there is no evidence of such a charge.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has alleged that the Congress-I is trying to divert the people's attention from scams by raising the hawala case. The party general secretary, Mr. Govind Acharya, said in New Delhi that his party will make the national security and corruption as major planks in the coming elections.

The chief minister of the national capital territory of Delhi, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, has said that a clear distinction should be made between corruption and funding for political expenses. He was of the view that political expenses do not amount to corruption. Talking to newsmen about the hawala case in New Delhi today, he demanded that statements of S.K. Jain and CBI investigation progress report should be made public.

#### **Indian Security Personnel Among 12 Killed in Tripura, Bihar**

BK2101091096 *Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Six persons, including five CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [personnel], were killed in Tripura when underground insurgents ambushed a police party escorting a pulse polio immunization team at Kejamara yesterday. Police said the team was returning from Subalsingh to Sidhai. A massive combing operation has been launched in the area.

In Bihar, armed terrorists killed six police personnel, including the SHO [Station House Officer], at the Tekari police station in Gaya District yesterday. The state home secretary, Mr. D.P. Maheshwari, told our Patna correspondent that the terrorists set the police station on fire and opened indiscriminate firing on the police personnel. Senior police officials have reached the site.

#### **Ten Killed in Clashes With Security Forces in Kashmir**

BK2201044596 *Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 10 persons, including at least three militants, were killed yesterday in two separate encounters between the security forces and the militants in Doda District.

According to official sources, the security forces surrounded a house in village Desapani on getting information that some militants were hiding there. They asked the militants to surrender but the militants started firing. In the crossfire, seven persons were killed. In another encounter, three militants were killed in Banihal yesterday.

#### **Indian Minister Rules Out Publication of Foreign Newspapers**

BK2101161996 *Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A parliamentary committee headed by Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan is currently framing the outlines for the new media policy. This was stated by the information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P.A. Sangma, while addressing the Indian Council of World Affairs in Kota today. He said there is no plan to allow publication of foreign newspapers in the country.

Earlier, Mr. Sangma inaugurated a 20-kilowatt power transmitter of All India Radio. He also announced that Doordarshan [Television] studios will be commissioned at Kota, Jodhpur, and Udaipur.

#### **Iran**

#### **Iranian Dailies Slam 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman Conviction**

NC2001140896 *Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 20 (AFP)—Two radical Iranian newspapers blasted the United States on Saturday [20 January] for handing down a life sentence to Egyptian spiritual leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the shaykh's "path will continue despite the artificial verdict" issued against him by a court in New York on Wednesday for his role in plotting a sweeping terrorist campaign against US targets and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

'Abd-al-Rahman is a "victim of Zionist hatred and rancor against Moslems," charged the daily, which is

close to Islamic hardliners. The sentence "was prepared in advance."

SALAM, which represents Islamic leftwingers, said for its part that the verdict "was to please the Zionist regime and [Egyptian President] Mubarak."

In an editorial headlined "the American Justice," the paper compared accusations levelled against the shaykh — that he sought to topple the US government — to a covert action plan adopted by Washington against Iran.

"Why are alleged efforts to topple the US government a crime, but not those to overthrow Iran?" SALAM asked, referring to the undercover program voted by the US House of Representatives and approved by the White House.

The plan, aimed at moderating Iran's Islamic regime, was a modified version of a proposal by US House speaker Newt Gingrich to overthrow the Iranian government.

#### **Tehran Radio on Palestinian Elections, Reasons for Boycott**

NC2001122896 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*  
0445 GMT 20 Jan 96

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Elections will be held today in the autonomous areas of Gaza and the West Bank under conditions of stringent security and supervision by foreign observers.

In these elections, which follow the accord between the PLO and the Zionist regime and prolonged delays, members of the autonomous council and the head of the autonomous areas will be elected. Reportedly, 1,698 polling booths have been set up in 16 constituencies for Palestinian voters residing in Gaza and the West Bank. Some 676 candidates are competing for the 88 seats on the Palestinian autonomous Council.

There are only two candidates for council head. Yasir 'Arafat is one; Samiha Khalil, 72, is the other and is not very well known. The PLO has had an extensive publicity campaign in these elections, hoping to show that its legitimacy is self-evident despite the opposition to the compromise with Israel. Many Palestinian groups opposed to the compromise have boycotted the elections and are not participating.

The absence of these groups will frustrate the PLO's effort to project itself as the representative of the Palestinian people. The combatant Palestinian groups oppose the executive council elections because they feel

this council has insufficient power and jurisdiction due to the fact that the decisions of this council must be approved by a joint Palestinian-Israeli committee.

This committee is obliged to prevent the approval and implementation of anti-Israeli laws and regulations. In view of the existence of such a committee, groups opposed to the elections believe that the council's decision-making ability will be eroded by Zionist supervision.

#### **Iranian Commentary Says Election Shows 'Shakiness' of 'Arafat Authority**

LD2101141296 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*  
1053 GMT 21 Jan 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the so-called self-rule elections ended in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The elections were held in 16 constituencies to determine both the executive head and the 88 members of the Legislative Council of the self-rule establishment. Sixty-five international observers from 11 countries, led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter oversaw the elections. Yasir 'Arafat and Ms Samiha Khalil, 75, were candidates for the executive head and 676 candidates — mainly from PLO supporters — competed for 88 seats in the legislative council. According to agency reports, 'Arafat, taking 85 percent of the votes compared to his only rival Samiha Khalil's 10 percent, has been elected as executive head of the self-rule establishment.

So far the results of the legislative council elections are not known, but bearing in mind the boycotting of the elections by ten Palestinian combatant groups, the non-participation of most of the eligible voters in the elections as well as the command [nature] of the elections, the results are expected to be similar to the result of the election of the executive head. Nevertheless, despite Western propaganda, one cannot take the results of these elections as a criterion for the legitimacy of the PLO and the compromisers among the Palestinian people in any way whatsoever. On the contrary, a realistic assessment of the attitude of the Palestinian people toward the elections will prove the opposite.

Out of six million Palestinians less than two million live in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. More than half of these were ineligible to vote in the elections. Therefore the number of eligible voters in these elections was less than a million. Even if we take an average of 50 percent turn out — according to Western sources — as a basis, the voters will be less than 400,000. That compared with

the total Palestinian population is almost one in 15 and compared with the self-rule area population is one in five. That demonstrates very well the shakiness of the foundations of the self-rule establishment and — on the other hand — the legitimacy of the combatant groups among the people of Palestine.

Moreover, bearing in mind the closed framework set for the operations of the elected council, one cannot expect these elections to bring about any positive changes in the status of the Palestinians. According to the Gaza-Ariha [Jericho] agreement, the council will not have the necessary competence to legislate and the extent of its authority is limited to merely adopt administrative measures to carry out those tasks which have been devolved to the PLO in civic fields in the self-rule areas. That is why it can be said that the executive nature of the council is more to the fore than its legislative aspect, so much so that the legislative council has no authority to pronounce on vital issues concerning the Palestinians. Among those issues one can refer to the final fate of al-Quds, the issue of Palestinian refugees, the Jewish settlements in the West Bank, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbors. Moreover, according to the Taba Accord, Tel Aviv has reserved the right of veto for itself over any council legislation if it considers it to be against its interests.

All this makes it clear that Tel Aviv has tried to determine the form and structure of the legislative council according to its own political and security requirements and at the same time reserve its own right to control it in the future. In fact one of the objectives of Tel Aviv in carrying out self-rule elections on schedule is to get the agreement with the PLO through the legislative council as soon as possible so that — by freeing itself of probable concerns — it can maintain the initiative in resolving the remaining issues and at the same time put 'Arafat in a serious impasse.

Bearing in mind those realities, the ten Palestinian groups boycotted the elections and most eligible voters abstained from voting.

#### **Iranian Paper Dismisses Palestinian Self-Rule Elections**

LD2201102196 *Tehran IRNA in English*  
0900 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — A morning daily Monday dismissed the so-called historic Palestinian self-rule elections, saying the whole process engineered in 1993 in Oslo was undemocratic.

"Yasir 'Arafat was never accepted as leader by all Palestinians. There are hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who do not share 'Arafat's and the Palestine Liberation

Organization's views regarding the fate of the Palestine nation," the English-language 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' stressed.

Noting the protests made by Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon, who were not allowed to air their views, the article pointed out that several militant groups, including the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad, had issued statements condemning "the humiliating conditions imposed for the elections, which are a blow to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and the millions of Palestinians in the diaspora."

While the elections written in Washington and enacted on Saturday by its Zionist agents in occupied Palestine aimed to legitimize 'Arafat's leadership and the so-called peace process, in reality, "they will be considered as another political soap-opera by the world's free-thinkers and the genuine proponents of political freedom," the daily concluded.

#### **Tehran Radio's Arabic Service Reports on Events in Bahrain**

NC2101182996 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic* 1730 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bahraini security forces today stepped up their patrols in Manama, deploying personnel armed with machine guns around government buildings. Despite the warning issued by the Bahraini Army yesterday that it is prepared to intervene to put down the disturbances, acts of violence continued last night for the third consecutive night. According to the Bahraini Interior Ministry, 43 fires occurred on Friday [19 January] and 38 fires on Thursday.

In a telephone conversation with the AFP office in Nicosia, Shaykh 'Ali Salman stressed that the protest movement will continue. He said: We will continue our work with peaceful means, which include strikes, peaceful marches, sit-ins, and even civil disobedience.

#### **Papers Deny Iranian Involvement in Bahrain Riots**

LD2201100896 *Tehran IRNA in English*  
0933 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — The editorials of two English dailies on Monday commented on the recent Bahraini allegations accusing Iran of contributing to social unrest in the sheikhdom. 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote that Bahrain has been facing an unprecedented unrest since December 1994 when police arrested a Muslim alim who demanded the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.



It went on to say that the first ever Bahraini constituent assembly was convened in December 1972 which produced a constitution providing for a National Assembly, containing cabinet ministers and 30 elected members. Although on December 7, 1975, elections were held for the new assembly and (in the absence of political parties) individuals entered the assembly, the emir dissolved it in August of the same year.

"With no signs that National Assembly would be reconvened, Bahraini citizens have, over the past few months, demanded the restoration of the parliament. In the absence of political parties, pressure groups and an organized opposition, people had to hold fast to unrest to convince the officials to restore the parliament. Instead of redressing the people's grievances, the officials resorted to arrests and suppression," the editorial further said.

"It is an old ploy to externalize domestic problems by officials who are not ready to submit to the genuine demands of the citizens," it stressed.

The editorial of another English daily 'IRAN NEWS' noted that following the recent disturbances in Bahrain, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC, declared its solidarity with Manama. Furthermore, the Bahraini Army issued a statement saying it will quell any opposition to the regime while Bahrain's news media, following their usual policies, again accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of contributing to the unrest.

"Bahrain's ruling family has denied its people even the most basic semblance of democracy, the parliament, through which Bahrainis could have a say in shaping their own future. Mass dissatisfaction and civil disturbance are the two phenomena that always accompany the denial of popular and basic human rights," it added.

Regarding the Bahraini officials' baseless claims, the editorial said, "it is natural that, under the prevalent circumstances in Bahrain, the government needs an scapegoat to blame for all the country's ills. But recent history proves that countries with dictatorial regimes, when confronted with popular domestic uprisings, always accuse foreign states of fomenting the disturbance in order to have a free hand at suppressing their own people. The regimes of the former shah of Iran and Augusto Pinochet of Chile are two examples."

The editorial concluded by reiterating that accusing Iran of masterminding the disturbances in Manama, or any other Persian Gulf Arab sheikhdom, is an old ploy of U.S. foreign policy to justify the illegal presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf region.

### **Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Attends Bahrain Oil Conference**

*LD1901180596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 96*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's deputy foreign minister, 'Abbas Maleki, who was in Manama, the Bahraini capital, to participate in the fourth international conference of oil and gas in the Middle East, on Thursday January 15 [date as heard] spelled out the way to exploit the resources of the region properly. The Iranian deputy foreign minister, who was addressing the inaugural session of the conference, pointed out that the cooperation and oneness of the Persian Gulf littoral states in the proper use of the region's oil resources is an inevitable exigency which, on the one hand, would promote life level, and, on the other, would facilitate the global trend of supply and demand of oil and gas.

Holding the fourth international conference of oil and gas in Bahrain with the participation of over 400 scientists, researchers, oil companies' executives, and the prominent high-level officials of the oil industry shows the understanding of the principle of regional integration among the countries in the south and north of the Persian Gulf. This is, however, the first step in entertaining a [?favorable] objective, that is, the materialization of these theoretical sketches, since the passive reaction of the Persian Gulf states to the issue of keeping along with the united policy in the extraction and supply of oil and gas would bring outsiders into the region.

Mr. Maleki, in his January 15 speech, noted that the Persian Gulf states and all those responsible in the oil industry here should make their decisions on a logically economic basis, but should rather be afraid of U.S. irrational pushes since in the long run the unity and harmony of Persian Gulf littoral states, as the major producers of the oil in the region, would overcome the politico-economic pressures of Westerners in dominating the global oil markets. This is the very fact the Iranian deputy foreign minister spoke of at the inaugural ceremony of the fourth international conference of oil and gas. Mr. Maleki said that the U.S., by boycotting the purchase of Iran's oil, could not implement any of its foreseen goals. At the moment Iran has no problem to market and sell the amount of oil the Americans used to buy.

**Iranian Paper Says Cooperation With Russia Halts U.S. 'Expansionism'**

LD2001070496 *Tehran IRNA in English*  
0654 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA — A morning daily, commenting on Iran's role and influence in the region, on Saturday wrote that cooperation between Iran and Russia is the surest way to curb U.S. expansionism and boost regional development.

The English-language 'Tehran Times' in its editorial added that since the disintegration of the former Soviet union, the U.S. has spared no effort in gaining a foothold in Central Asia and Caucasia, forging a two-pronged policy to increase its sphere of influence in the region.

In a meeting with scholars during the fifth seminar on security and foreign policy in Central Asia and Caucasus, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that Russia's role in the region cannot be overlooked. The president emphasized that Iran's presence in these areas has mitigated the tension there and helped preserve regional peace and stability.

Referring to the recent appointments of Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov and Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, the editorial added that Russia will probably move to curb U.S. expansionist policies in the region.

The article quoted Primakov as saying that Russia is "a great world power and its (foreign) policy must conform to the that status." This means that Russia should refrain from toeing Washington's policy lines, TEHRAN TIMES added.

The best bulwark against American aggressiveness is cooperation between Russia and the Third World states, specially the regional countries.

Closer cooperation between Iran, as one of the strongest countries in the region, and Russia will curb U.S. influence. Tehran-Moscow alliance will certainly give a fresh momentum to regional development, concluded the editorial.

**Prospect of Cooperation Between Russia, Iran 'Very Bright'**

LD2001221896 *Tehran IRNA in English*  
2211 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan. 20, IRNA — According to the deputy of Research Institute of Political and Economic science Academy of Russia, Victor Kissilov, with the designation of the new foreign minister, Yevgeniy Primakov, there is a very bright prospect of cooperation between Russia and Iran.

Kissilov told IRNA here Saturday [20 January] that the two countries could work together in the economic field in the Caucasus and the Caspian region to stand against American expansionist policy.

The research deputy finally stated that based on common historical background and culture, Russia should continue its cooperation despite the poisonous propaganda against Iran.

**Iranian Commentary on Reasons for Kozyrev Resignation, Primakov Appointment**

NC2201112196 *Tehran ABRAR in Persian* 11 Jan 96  
p 12

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Buolhari: "Change in Russia's Diplomacy; Meeting Needs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Tuesday [9 January] Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Yevgeniy Primakov foreign minister. This appointment came a few days after Andrey Kozyrev resigned to run for the Duma.

Kozyrev's wish to run for the Duma is cited as the reason for his resignation but this cannot be considered the main cause of the change at the Russian Foreign Ministry. The change followed the failure of Russia's policy of convergence with the West and increasing pressure by the communists and nationalists. In his four years as foreign minister, Kozyrev persistently spread the theory of convergence, a theory that conflicted with Russia's national interests in the past two years and that the West considered as setting Moscow aside in international relations. [as published]

As foreign minister, Kozyrev was considered one of Yeltsin's key policymakers, an element whose continuing government presence meant continuing reform. But Moscow's attention to regional and extraregional issues, calling for dynamic diplomacy, did not conform with the spirit and methods of Kozyrev and his associates. The West's expansionist policy in East Europe and in the republics of the former Soviet Union was another drawback to friendship with Moscow. The Kremlin could not regard NATO's participation in the peace plan and the West's economic, political, and military presence in the various areas near Russia favorably. Other factors had their impact—Russia's strategic-military outlook.

The defeat of Yeltsin's market economy policy and growing public dissatisfaction also affected foreign policy. The strengthening positions of the communists and nationalists in elections showed public opinion was changing.

In the past two years we saw Moscow shifting its attention from West Europe and America to Asia—especially to the Middle East—and Africa.

The 1995 parliamentary elections constituted a strong blow to the supporters of reform. The defeat of the reformists raised the issue of government reorganization, an issue that focused largely on Kozyrev and on Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Both Kozyrev and Yeltsin concluded that the foreign minister might be removed by parliament, which could have laid the groundwork for cooperation between the two opposition parties, the communists and the liberal democrats. Kozyrev's resignation could prevent this and grant Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin the chance to maneuver against the opposition. The communists' support for Primakov may be considered to confirm this.

Primakov is now foreign minister. He is a veteran diplomat who first appeared on the scene as Gorbachev's envoy during the Persian Gulf war. Primakov headed the intelligence organization that succeeded the KGB after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

A glance at Primakov's political and intelligence record shows that Yeltsin appointed him as a "type" of answer to the need for change in the country's diplomacy, linking it with Russia's national interests. The new foreign minister's expertise on Middle East issues shows the emphasis placed on Russian diplomacy in the region, diplomacy that started months ago with the expansion of all-aspected cooperation with some Middle Eastern countries, primarily Iran.

#### **Tehran Sees Muslim Government in Bosnia Weakening**

NC2201082096 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*  
0445 GMT 22 Jan 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasan Muratovic, minister for relations with the NATO-led multinational force [IFOR], was named prime minister after Haris Silajdzic resigned in protest at restrictions imposed by the authorities on the prime minister and his cabinet.

After the signing of the Bosnian peace agreement and the separation of the governments of the federation and the Bosnian Republic, parliament approved the new bill to form the Bosnian Government, allocating only five ministries to it. Silajdzic got the presidential council's mandate to form a new cabinet. But he refused the mandate because he was dissatisfied with the composition of the ministries and saw the likelihood of the central government weakening.

Political experts believe that since one of the ways to preserve Bosnia's territorial integrity is to strengthen the executive institutions, limiting the ministries threatens the Bosnian Government's balanced rule and reduces central government's role in the political decisionmaking process in the country. From now on, with increased intervention by the Serbs and Croats in the composition of the presidential council and Bosnian Parliament, the Bosnian Government could gradually lose its old position.

Political developments and the diminishing role of Bosnian Government institutions are being seen at a time when the peace process has not been completed. The strengthening of the Muslim-Croat federation and the presence of the Serbs in the policymaking process within the Serb Republic of Bosnia will see all the sides attending to political and social trends in Bosnia and will gradually reduce the role and responsibility of the Muslim government of Bosnia. Agreements were reached on this two months ago during the Dayton conference.

#### **Rafsanjani Speech Marks Islamic Revolution Anniversary**

LD2001141996 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*  
1030 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has described the greatness and importance of the Islamic revolution as the most significant event in contemporary history in achieving Koranic and divine aspirations. He stressed: With the clear paths that the achievements of the Islamic revolution have laid before contemporary humanity, one can prove the power of religion in the various aspects of the management of societies.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was speaking today to a gathering of the headquarters in charge of commemorating the glorious Ten Days of Dawn [anniversary of the Islamic revolution, 1 to 11 February]. Underlining the popular bases of the Islamic revolution and its moves founded on wishes and aspirational, Islamic, and national aims, he said: Considering the strength and stability of the foundations of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its extensive and considerable efforts in construction, as well as the progress of the country in all fields following the victory of the Islamic revolution, we must try to reflect reality and increase the familiarity of the younger generation with the nature and spirit of the revolution and safeguard and strengthen the special popular characteristics of this sacred movement.

The president pointed to the position of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world, saying: The Islamic revolution of Iran, which is viewed as an outstanding development in the contemporary era, took shape at a time when many of the world's observers had begun extensive and all-embracing propaganda, saying that the era of isolation of religion and the era of a personal relationship between humanity and religion had begun. Therefore, in order to reflect the amazing achievements of this revolution, it is necessary to carry out fundamental and effective publicity programs during the Ten Days of Dawn.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: Eighteen years of jihad and effort toward fulfilling the aims of the revolution and new and deep achievements have further clarified the greatness of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world's public opinion, to the extent that today, in the house of enmity and the center of implementation of hostile policies against Iran — in other words, America — its observers and important commentators admit that the Islamic revolution is strong and that its essence cannot be sullied.

The president said: All the efforts of the opponents of Islamic Iran are focused on weakening it and diverting it from the principles and aspirations of the revolution. Therefore, all publicity and cultural bodies are duty bound to defend this divine revolution and their freedom and independence through the use of Koranic methods and the strengthening of the awareness and vigilance of the public.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani enumerated the effects of the advances and development of the country in the various political, economic, social, and cultural fields. He said: Through the blessing of this glorious revolution, Iran today is the strongest country in the region in military terms; and in the fields of expansion and construction, Iran is one of the leading countries of the world. As all domestic and international commentators and observers have admitted, the development and construction programs implemented in order to strengthen the pillars of the country's economy have been unprecedented since the Qajar dynasty [ended 1925].

The president described the presence of the women of the Islamic homeland in the various social scenes as one of the outstanding achievements of the Islamic system. He said: This presence shows the special attention paid to women by the system and it shows that proper grounds have been prepared for the development of the personality of the country's women.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the number of students has increased tenfold; injustice and discrimination in remote areas of the country has been eliminated; huge

efforts and infrastructural investments have been made in order to compensate for backwardness and to develop deprived and border areas, and 42 percent of the total budget of the country has been allocated to construction and expansion. He described these as deep-rooted and major developments of recent years, and added: The expansion of science and technology, growth in production, and the forming of society according to Islamic values have made the independence of Islamic Iran undeniable and demonstrated even to the most belligerent enemies of our popular revolution the power of planning and the power of implementing the complicated and important plans of this sacred system.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to honor the effective elements in the victory of the revolution and the rule of the Islamic system, especially the clergy, martyrs, war-disabled, self-sacrificing devotees, and faithful forces and their esteemed families. He declared: The glorious Ten Days of Dawn is the right time to remind society of its valuable memories and create conditions in which all strata of society feel that they are taking part in this glorious national and Islamic celebration and in the defense of this great divine blessing, which was created under the shadow of the divine move of the late imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, and continued under the leadership of the great leader [Khamene'i]. [passage omitted]

#### **Rafsanjani Approves List of Officials To Contest Tehran**

LD2201105696 Tehran IRNA in English  
0748 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — The morning daily 'IRAN' reported Monday that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has accepted a proposal by a group of senior administration officials on nominating candidates for the Tehran constituency in the forthcoming elections for the 270-seat Majles.

The Persian daily quoted reliable sources as having said that the issue was the subject of discussion of cabinet ministers in their last night session which was presided over by the president.

Iran added that the president's decision came following a refusal by groups associated with 'Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez (JRM) of Tehran' to include names of five candidates in their list of 30, who were proposed by the senior officials. JRM had earlier accepted to include the names of five candidates, but this was later turned down due to the opposition of groups affiliated to JRM.



The group of senior government officials, came to be known as "Khedmatgozaran-e Sazandegi" (those serving the cause of reconstruction), are said to be coming up with a list of 30 candidates for Tehran constituency for the March 8 Majles elections, the Persian daily added. The group including 10 ministers of President Rafsanjani's administration, four vice-presidents and the governor of the Central Bank and the Tehran mayor, on January 17, issued a statement urging the electorates to vote for the qualified candidates. The statement praised President Rafsanjani for his sincere efforts, outstanding achievements and brilliant record during his term in office, as well as his services both before and after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution. The statement added that support for President Rafsanjani is support for the lofty and immortal ideals of Imam Khomeyni and is in line with the aspirations of the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the esteemed ulema and the people.

#### Iran's IRNA, RESALAT Disagree on Elections

NC1901204896 Tehran RESALAT in Persian  
8 Jan 96 pp 1, 16

[FBIS Translated Text] In answer to Thursday's [4 January] editorial IRNA has sent a response, which we are publishing below along with our questions.

In Thursday's editorial entitled "Recess Time at the News Agency" RESALAT's dear author made some comments about the views of a member of Tehran University's scientific staff on the elections and parties' activities. It was transmitted by IRNA's telexes under the title "For the Officials' Information." These remarks [by the professor] were clearly made in haste, by resorting to irrelevant issues and by drawing unfavorable conclusions. Therefore, we would like to comment on some of the points, not in order to defend ourselves or to reprimand him, but in order to help the family of the country's mass media, to which we also belong, and to create a healthy atmosphere void of pessimism and grudges.

1. Referring to this University staff member's remark that "we should struggle for freedom and..." the dear author of RESALAT's editorial has warned that this is the same behavior "of the war staffs of the minigroups that were formed in the universities during the first years after the revolution." We think that such a hysterical and unnatural conclusion lacks both a canonical and a logical basis and is legally unjustifiable. Undoubtedly the said university professor will have to answer for his views. But RESALAT newspaper will also have to be held accountable for these accusations.

2. As for the part of the editorial where the author tells the professor that "if France and America are the places you desire," we think that, first of all, this is an accusation that should be examined and followed up. Second, if—God forbid—this is true, then proclaiming it in public is something that the enemy favors. Is it in our system's interest to portray each "criticism" and its "critic" as being American and... [ellipsis as published]?

3. Here we add that irrespective of the two aforementioned points, it is the right and duty of RESALAT and of all the other mass media to comment on and analyze such opinions and to grant "God's creatures" the opportunity to "hear various views and to choose the best."

4. The esteemed author of the editorial asks the IRNA officials how they can justify their stand? The answer is clear. IRNA—as the country's reliable news-disseminating institution—has the duty to provide the people and officials with various news and opinions. Just as the dear author of the editorial has pointed out, this interview was news that was transmitted for the officials' information. Now, our question to our colleagues in RESALAT is: Why do you bring up such issues in a newspaper with such a wide circulation and as an editorial at that? What is your justification for this illegal act?

5. The esteemed author of this editorial has also made a more interesting point and asks if such issues do not suggest a specific direction to key officials in the system. Our brotherly advice is that the esteemed author apologize to all of the system's key officials for this "wise!" advice that he is giving them. But as far as the news agency is concerned, we say that the issue you have referred to is not an example of what the news agency does. Apart from the news agency's telex services, which everyone has access to, we also have a special telex service that provides information [to officials]. It is unknown how RESALAT has gained access to this special service. Therefore, it is only just and brave to take the general points into consideration and then to make a judgment.

6. Of course, the respected author does not have a better opinion on the people either because he has explicitly written that the only impact that the various strata's expression of views has on the elections is that it brings disillusionment. Frankly speaking, did this esteemed author know what impact his comments would have and what clear deductions could be drawn from them? In our opinion, it is his haste and his great yearning to condemn our news agency's officials that have prevented him from realizing this important point. Are our people so weak and unable to understand? And are the foundations of our dynamic Islamic thought so weak?

7. He has very justly written that "the most dangerous cultural illness is when the enemy propaganda succeeds and it is able to instill disillusionment in the minds of the revolutionary people. While confirming this correct assessment, we ask: What is our duty in preventing the people from further inclining toward such [enemy] mass media? Is a critical stand by the domestic press one of the ways to confront this onslaught and to make the people stop listening to such media?"

8. The last accusatory question asked by the esteemed author of RESALAT's editorial is: "What does the questioning of clericalism, the strength of the system, and the authority of supreme jurisconsult and so on have to do with the Majles elections?"

We thank him for the mere fact of not having accused others of blasphemy and lack of religion! We also will be satisfied with the brotherly advice that our duty is to look at each other without prejudgments, without kicking up a lot of dust, and without using distorted glasses. Making accusations is a simple act, but it is also a useless act and a serious crime!

We pray to merciful God to grant all of us who are sincerely and wisely serving the divine Islamic system success.

**RESALAT's answer:**

Our dear colleagues at the news agency thought that RESALAT's reaction to some of the unjust efforts and expressions of views that are alien to the revolution was made in haste while all their arguments about heterodox elements and even politically bankrupt people are an effort to create a healthy atmosphere that is free from pessimism and grudges.

But if we think about the names and records of some of the people the news agency has interviewed and at whose disposal they have very generously placed its tribune—so that they can say whatever they want to against the system and the people—we will see that RESALAT's reaction only stems from religious and revolutionary zeal and that the revival of political corpses or heterodox elements will not help us create a healthy atmosphere. (Here we do not intend to list the names of people and their views). But our answer to the points raised by IRNA are as follows.

1. In the first paragraph you have not explained why our comments protesting the remarks by the said member of the university's scientific staff were "hysterical" and "unnatural."

Also, you have not explained why our remarks lack "canonical," "logical," and "legal" grounds. The gentleman whom you are defending has said: "As far as

freedom is concerned, we lag behind countries like Egypt and America and so on. Freedom is something we should struggle for, shed blood for, and be imprisoned for..." [ellipsis as published]

In his opinion, countries like Egypt and America are free countries!! And even if they are not free, we are still behind them. He then advises that "we should shed blood for and be imprisoned for freedom." Our complaint to you is: Why didn't you ask this professor if there is freedom in Egypt and America, what kind of freedom it is; basically speaking what he means by freedom; and what he means when he says that we should struggle against the Islamic Republic, shed blood, and even go to prison so that we will not remain behind Egypt and America?! Can someone who, in our pure divine atmosphere, proposes that we go to war and resort to violence to gain "freedom," be a supporter of freedom?!

Those who had a distorted interpretation of freedom never agreed with the interpretation that the people, Islam, and the revolution have of freedom. Their confrontation with the system went so far that they despicably stained their hands with the blood of the true leaders of the people and of great 'ulema and scholars, each of whom was a great asset to the world of morality and divinity. These people's frustration went so far that they joined the enemies of the revolution at the most critical time and bared their teeth at the pure children of this divine land from the positions of the Ba'hist enemy. And now they are also hoping to gain one single signature from an intoxicated Western deputy in the American and European parliaments so that they can show that there is no freedom in Islamic Iran and that human rights are being violated. Are these the people who are so-called struggling?!

If we tell someone who believes that there is no freedom in our system and that freedom should be fought for, shed blood for, and be imprisoned for, that what he says is exactly what the war staffs of the minigroups in the universities said in the first years of the revolution, why should you defend those remarks and consider our remarks to be hysterical and unnatural, and then feign to be a scholar and to claim that such words have no canonical basis or to feign that you are an interpreter of law and tell us that what we say has no legal justification?! Are the remarks of someone who commends violence to the point of going to prison and shedding blood legal while ours are not?!

2. If we tell the person who has said in an interview with you that "as far as freedom is concerned, we lag behind countries like Egypt, America, and so on," that France and America are the places where you desire to

live, why do you immediately become upset and state that this is "an accusation that should be examined and followed up" and that if what we say is correct it is "what the enemy favors," while you do not consider the said person's despicable attacks against the system and his approval of violence to be what the enemy wants to hear. Rather, you ask whether it is in our system's interest for every "criticism" and every "critic" to be portrayed as an American?

First of all, who has done this? Second, is the person who says that we should struggle, shed blood, and be imprisoned and that it is wrong to wait for the government's permission to start party activities a critic? Why do you believe that we should have a lesser number of such people in general? Where do you draw this conclusion from?!

3. You have said that it is the right and duty of RESALAT and of all the other media to comment on views and give the "creatures of God" the opportunity "to hear various views and to choose the best." We thank you for thinking that this is our right. But why do you not consider what is our right to be your own right, too? Why did you not comment on the unwise remarks by this university professor in that interview?

By allowing the "creatures of God to hear various views and to choose the best" do you mean that the best views between what we have to offer and what the professor is offering should be chosen? We ask you: What is the news agency's view? Do you have the same views as the said professor? If not, why don't you say so?!

We will continue this answer tomorrow.

#### **Iranian Deputy on Election Role of Guardians Council**

NC2001182296 Tehran RESALAT in Persian  
15 Jan 96 pp 1-2

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni, Tehran Majles deputy and head of the education and training committee in the Islamic Majles, by an unidentified RESALAT legal and parliamentary correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [RESALAT] Various people are trying to project society's political atmosphere as poisoned [masmum]. Is the atmosphere conducive to political parties' activities?

[Hoseyni] Those who make such claims should prove their remarks. They cannot. People who are not popular with society usually try to cover up their shortcomings by blaming the people or the society. No reasonable individual should make such accusations against the atmosphere created by Iran and the blood of the martyrs

for the people to participate in the Islamic system. The most beautiful atmosphere in the world is right here in Iran, which invites everyone to participate in political and social affairs.

In the previous election term, people who had fallen out of favor made such improper allegations. Their remarks are a direct slur on the people. Instead of negative fabrications and unwarranted accusations, people should display their merits and propound their plans so that our intelligent people can elect the best to be their deputies.

To those who care about Iran, I say: Stop the negative and unwarranted remarks and instill hope for the people's participation, success, and victory.

[RESALAT] To what extent are people participating in the next elections? What concept could gain most votes in the fifth Majles elections?

[Hoseyni] Our knowledgeable people have come through every phase of the Majles elections with intelligence and perception. They will not be indifferent to the Majles, which is a pillar of the Islamic system. Predictions are that the people, in the fifth Majles elections, will elect their deputies carefully so that they can formulate hope-inspiring and path-opening laws.

As to who will win most votes in the next Majles, I will make no forecasts. But I am certain the people recognize those who are willing to serve them and will not be duped by the unscrupulous. They will elect sincere, hardworking individuals who believe in the Velayat-e Faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and the clergy's guidance and will not vote for those who lack the proper perspective of the main pillars of the system, that is, the Velayat-e Faqih.

[RESALAT] Society has been discussing the formation of political parties. Do you consider parties essential for the people's political growth? How do you assess recent moves to form political parties?

[Hoseyni] When individuals converge around a particular mode of thought and uphold it, they can form a political party. It is not an issue that requires to be defended. The people's esteem and good fortune depend on how it behaves and acts.

As for reports of moves to form a party are true, they are a bit late. People who want to form parties have woken up to the fact rather late. A party should evolve based on a distinctive mode of thought to encourage sincere individuals to participate in its programs to make it a party in the true meaning of the word.

Simply announcing in a newspaper that a party has been formed does not help to gain trust and prosperity.

Better for those who want to establish a political party to propound their views on political, cultural, and economic issues to win the people's trust over time. A party that does not evolve slowly is like a tree without roots—it can collapse with the slightest move.

[RESALAT] What is meant by the Guardians Council's supervision of the approval of candidates? Who opposes this and casts aspersion on it?

[Hoseyni] The main issue is whether the elections should be supervised. No one can say that such an important thing should go unsupervised. Every intelligent individual will concede that some trustworthy and expert people should supervise. Any aberrations should be identified and prevented.

Supervision of the approval of candidates should give the supervisor the right to prevent any aberration. Those who oppose this or say there should be no supervision or want some other institution to oversee the elections are breaking the national and divine pledge that is the Constitution and the laws governing this responsibility placed on the Guardians Council's shoulders.

Those who negate such supervision are trampling on the law. How can anyone who is indifferent to the law enter a lawmaking body? Can someone who does not accept the law and does not consider himself bound by it expect the people to vote for him and accept him in the Majles?

The Guardians Council has six just and expert jurists with a clear revolutionary record who are firmly committed to the truth and justice as endorsed by the late imam and the great leader [Khamene'i]. There are jurists in the Majles who have been elected by the people's deputies.

The Guardians Council has two wings: One is decided by the great leader and the other by the Majles, ultimately, by the people.

The Constitution gives the Guardians Council the right to prevent any shortcoming or aberration. Supervision that is merely theoretical and only for information would be like someone who sees himself straying from the highway, falling, but failing to do anything about it.

Anyone who goes against supervision is breaking the law and showing a lack of commitment to the Constitution. It would not be proper for those who consider themselves compassionate to the revolution and Islam to make such unwarranted remarks about the Guardians Council's supervision. If they do they will go down in the esteem of our perceptive people.

## Pakistan

### Pakistani Minister Denies France Refusing To Sell Mirages

BK2201082796 Islamabad THE NEWS in English  
22 Jan 96 p 1

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali on Sunday described as "speculative" the reports that France has refused to sell Mirage 2000 planes to Pakistan.

"These are all press speculations," he said in brief informal chat with journalists at Foreign Office.

The press reports suggested that France changed its mind after India threatened that the deal may sour their bilateral relations.

"We have no such intimation from Paris," he added.

### Pakistan Concerned About India Testing Nuclear-Tipped Missile

BK2001083496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan says India's plan of testing a long-range version of surface-to-surface ballistic missile adds to the international and regional concerns about proliferation and tension escalation.

A foreign office spokesman said this in Islamabad while commenting on India's announcement of testing a long-range version of Prithvi missile before January 27. He said taken together with the recent reports of a planned nuclear test by India at the Pokaran site, the Indian announcement presents a sinister prospect of nuclear-tipped missile. India's ambitious missile development program has been criticized by the international community because experts say the missiles could be fitted with nuclear warheads.

Meanwhile, a LOS ANGELES TIMES report says that President Clinton has warned India that the United States would cut off all economic and military aid if it conducted a nuclear test.

Indian Defense Ministry statement in New Delhi says India will soon test a long-range version of a surface-to-surface ballistic missile. It says short-range Prithvi missiles with a range of 150 km have been successfully tested in the last two years, but a version that can go much further will be tested for the first time before the 27th of this month.



**Article Contrasts Islamabad's, Delhi's Nuclear Plans**

BK2101115396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English  
21 Jan 96 p 7

[Article by Syed Talat Hussain]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It will be a tragic mistake if Washington does not realise that it has to force Delhi to reverse its nuclear march to save South Asia its markets and world peace from the horrible future of a nuclear conflict. Also it ought to inject fairness in its evenhandedness. India and Pakistan are not two peas in a pod.

South Asia's nuclear scene has grown nastier and more unpredictable. India is planning to test a nuclear device and deploy its short-range nuclear capable missile, Prithvi; Pakistan is threatening to retaliate in kind. This can devastate the Bill Clinton administration's care fully-constructed non-proliferation agenda in South Asia. It can even prove right some of Washington's worst fears about South Asia becoming a flash-point of nuclear conflict.

Dangerously, however, Administration's policy towards the region is stuck in the old grooves.

It continues to peddle the theme that both India and Pakistan are equally responsible for worsening the nuclear situation. Worse, Washington seems more concerned with preshaping Pakistan's response to India's threatened nuclear test or missile deployment than with stopping Delhi from taking this disastrous policy course.

A recent statement of a U.S. State Department official illustrates this. He disingenuously sounded a note of warning to both India and Pakistan. The Bill Clinton administration, he said, is deeply concerned over India's decision to test-fire Prithvi missile but will strongly oppose if Pakistan decides to respond by taking up any of nuclear missile testing, or installation options.

Even more frustrating was the evident casualness with which he treated the issue of Prithvi deployment. "Prithvi missile has not yet been installed and declaring it a threat to Pakistan's security will be a speculation."

The Clinton administration has shown better clarity of strategic thought on the issue of India detonating a nuclear device. This has been expressed in some stern warnings it has given to Delhi. It has conveyed to Delhi for instance that the Administration might consider slapping economic and military sanctions under the 1994 Nuclear Proliferation Act and the 1981 Glenn Amendment to the Foreign Aid Assistance Bill if it were to detonate a nuclear device.

But on Prithvi's deployment and testing the response from Washington has been mild, to say the least. It has mealy-mouthed rather than talk plain.

No wonder this has deepened the impression in Pakistan's decision making quarters that the report of Indian's nuclear test was a subterfuge to divert attention from the more immediate plans about Prithvi. Now Delhi, by agreeing not to detonate a nuclear device will try to win Washington's tacit approval of its testing of Prithvi and then readying it for deployment. Washington will be pleased to ward off the bigger mischief of nuclear testing in return for tolerating a smaller one, Prithvi's deployment.

This assessment could be far fetched. In reality, Washington might be just as concerned about India's nuclear detonation as about Prithvi. But this concern is too diluted to salvage South Asia's security situation. Not the least because it blightly and unfairly targets Pakistan as well. Since the news about India's secret weapon test made headlines in THE NEW YORK TIMES and then almost everywhere, Washington has been putting pressure on Pakistan not to react to the tricks Delhi might have up its nuclear sleeves. It has used its carefully selected non-official sources to convey to Pakistan the benefits of not following suit if India is to upgrade or test its nuclear prowess, as also the costs if Pakistan does not listen.

In doing this, Washington is repeating the mistake it made when it began to tackle Pakistan's efforts to match India's nuclear capabilities. It did little to put brakes on Delhi's headstrong, headlong rush down the nuclear path, but it chained Pakistan with Pressler sanctions. It tried to cure the region's nuclear problem- caused by the cantankerous growth of India's nuclear programme by treating the symptoms; Pakistan's reaction. Predictably, it failed.

Not only that, it also aggravated the problem. Washington made a big hubbear out of Pakistan's nuclear programme and painted it in all the wrong colours. Pakistan's bomb, an Islamabad, and Islamic bomb, a fundamentalist bomb, a bomb to help Iran and Libya build their bombs, a bomb to annihilate Israel and so on and so forth.

This gave India an additional excuse to enlarge its nuclear designs and work on its missile programme. And when Pakistan tried to secure a minimum security guarantee against Delhi's killers, Prithvi and Agni, it again became the target of Washington's misplaced worries.

The category II sanctions of the Missile Technology control Regime that were imposed on Pakistan and

China for the suspected transfer of M-1 related technology were an unmistakable proof of the lopsidedness of the U.S. policy in the region.

It completely overlooked the strategic compulsions-created this time by India's missile programme within which Pakistan had to operate and chose to punish Islamabad for shoring up its security.

This lopsidedness lingers even now when the Clinton administration says that its policy towards India and Pakistan is evenhanded. Still the focus of attention and concern is Pakistan's nuclear programme, Pakistan's missiles and Pakistan's likely response to India's testing of a nuclear device and deployment of nuclear capable missiles.

Some of the recent criticism and warning that India has received from Washington are not because of Delhi's over-arching nuclear ambitions but because of the affect the U.S. fears these ambitions and plans will have on Pakistan, whose prime minister has already warned of "horrible results" and "nuclear showdown."

It will be a tragic mistake if Washington does not realise that it has to force Delhi to reverse its nuclear march to save South Asia, its markets and world peace from the horrible future of a nuclear conflict.

Also it ought to inject fairness in its evenhandedness. India and Pakistan are not two peas in a pod. One has illegitimate ambitions, the other legitimate anxieties. One desires nuclear power for glory and offence, the other for security and defence.

#### **Pakistan Rejects India's Allegations of Terrorism Support**

*BK2001121396 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Jan 96 p 7*

[Report from Associated Press of Pakistan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan on Thursday spurned Indian Minister Narasimha Rao's allegations that it supported terrorism in the region saying that the accusation were meant to cover up Indian repression in held Kashmir.

This is nothing but an attempt to divert domestic public opinion from the realities on the ground and to cover up Indian repression against the people of Kashmir who have waged a valiant struggle against Indian occupation during the last six years," a Foreign Office spokesman told APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] in response to allegations hurled by Indian Prime Minister against Pakistan at an election rally in West Bengal on Wednesday.

Rao while addressing his party's youth rally in Calcutta, capital of West Bengal at the start of election campaign for the upcoming elections, accused Pakistan of extending 'open support to terrorists' in Held Kashmir.

"We strongly reject Indian Prime Minister Rao's allegations," the spokesman added.

Referring to Rao's "concern" over arms purchase by Pakistan, he said "Indian Prime Minister's objection to Pakistan legitimate defence needs is unclad for an unacceptable." "We view with some concern the Indian Prime Minister Rao's objection to a minimal purchase of arms by Pakistan," he added.

He said Rao's objection was aimed at covering up," the massive Indian purchases of latest military equipment and their feverish development of missile and other technologies." "It is in fact India which has been promoting an arms race in South Asia with a view to fulfilling its hegemonistic designs," he added.

#### **Pakistan's Bhutto Returns From Japan With Cooperation Agreements**

*BK2101091496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad last night after a four-day official visit to Japan. On her visit, the prime minister held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto on promoting investment in Pakistan, bilateral relations, and regional and international issues. The prime minister briefed her Japanese counterpart on the Kashmir issue and the human rights violations by Indian forces there. She also expressed serious concern over Indian plans to conduct a second nuclear test and on that country's missile program. Under the agreements signed during her visit, Japan will provide approximately \$764 million to Pakistan on soft terms for Ghazi Barotha hydro power project, Lahore light rail transit system project phase-I, and the social action program. Other projects to be funded are the national drainage program and the Bolan medical college. The prime minister's visit also provided an opportunity to the investors of the two countries to enter into joint ventures to uplift the economy.

#### **Pakistani Minister: No Custodial Killings, Fake Clashes in Karachi**

*BK2101091196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for law and justice, Mian Raza Rabbani, has categorically told the Senate that there have been custodial killings or

fake police encounters in Karachi. He was responding to points of order by Salim Ishtiaq Azhar and Mr. Aftab Ahmad Sheikh, who maintained that over the past few days several Altaf Group workers have been killed in fake police encounters. Speaking on a number of adjournment motions by Syed Mohammad Fazal Agha regarding bonded labor and illegal consignment of haris [agricultural laborers] in Sindh, he told the house that on a report, police raided the land of Murad Khan Mareen Sanjaero in Sanghar. It recovered 96 detainees and registered a case against him.

Speaking on an adjournment motion by Syed Ishtiaq Azhar regarding decrease in share prices of Karachi stock exchange, the minister of state for finance, Makhdom Sahabuddin, told the house that there was no crisis in the stock exchange. Speaking on an adjournment motion by Syed Mohammad Fazal Agha, he said the government has so far been able to recover about 51 billion rupee stuck-up and bad loans out of about 82 billion rupees. The motion was ruled out of order.

#### **Pakistan's Five 'Most Wanted Terrorists' Killed**

*BK2001152596 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi today, five most wanted terrorists, including Rehan Kana, were killed in an armed encounter in North Nazimabad. According to police, the other terrorists have been identified as Mohammad Nayab, Sheikh Zakaullah, Junaid Ahmed, and Tanveer Ali alias Pasha.

According to details, the police cordoned some areas in Khwaja Ajmer Nagari in search of the wanted persons. This morning, a police party spotted some young men moving in a suspicious manner. When the police challenged them, they tried to escape. The police party chased them and there was an encounter near Nusrat Bhutto Colony. The five wanted persons were killed and two cops were injured in the encounter. Police has also recovered large quantity of arms and ammunition, including rockets from their possession.

Rehan Kana was wanted for the killing of more than 100 innocent persons. About 64 cases, including the massacre at Supermarket Liaqatabad, Musa Colony and Park Colony and rocket attack on Liaqatabad police station, had already been registered against them.

#### **5 Killed in Sniper Firing in Karachi**

*BK2001162796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a press note issued in Karachi this evening, five persons were killed due to firing by unknown persons in the jurisdiction

of Korangi and Nazimabad police stations today. Two vehicles were also set on fire by some unknown miscreants in the jurisdiction of Azizabad and Zaman Town police stations.

### **Sri Lanka**

#### **Sri Lankan Air Force Craft Reported Missing Over LTTE-Held Area**

*BK2201111696 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 22 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Jan 22 (AFP) — An air force transport helicopter carrying 31 people aboard went missing while flying over Tamil rebel-held territory in northern Sri Lanka Monday, official sources said.

The Russian-built Mi-17 transporter was taking security personnel from the main airforce base at Palaly on the northern edge of the Jaffna peninsula to another camp at Vettalaikerni when it disappeared from radar, the sources said.

The aircraft went missing over territory held by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and a major search operation was underway, the sources said.

#### **No Survivors as Missing Craft Crashes in LTTE-Held Waters**

*BK2201122496 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 22 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Jan 22 (AFP) — An air force helicopter carrying 39 people crashed Monday into waters controlled by Tamil Tigers guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka, official sources said. There were no reports of survivors.

Defence sources said the helicopter may have been shot down by an anti-aircraft gunner firing from a boat off the eastern coast of the Jaffna peninsula which is dominated by the rebels.

The Russian-built Mi-17 transporter was taking security personnel from the main air force base at Palaly on the northern edge of the Jaffna peninsula to a smaller military base at Vettalaikerni when it disappeared, the sources said.

"The flight usually takes less than 10 minutes for the journey," a defence source here said. "There was no distress message. No contact with the tower. It just disappeared from radar."

Last year, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] fired surface-to-air heat-seeking anti-aircraft missiles to

bring down several air force transport planes and at least one ground attack aircraft.

The rebels also fired machine guns to bring down a Chinese built Y-8 cargo plane off Jaffna last November, killing five crew members.

Defence sources said helicopters and navy boats deployed for a search and rescue mission failed to find the wreckage of the Mi-17 helicopter, which is presumed to have crashed into the Indian Ocean.

"Unlike in previous crashes, the passengers of the Mi-17 were wearing life jackets," a defence source said. "If there are any survivors, we would have found them by now."

Among the passengers was a navy officer, Cedric Martinstyn, whose son Jason died in a similar crash in September last year.

#### **Fierce Fighting in Sri Lanka; Rebels Flee Batticaloa Base**

*BK2001132496 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English  
1045 GMT 20 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists are locked in a fierce battle in the East.

According to LANKAPUVATH, military sources said that the operation began in the Polonnaruwa and Batticaloa districts. Troops today stormed a major hideout of the terrorists in the jungles of Toppigala. The terrorists are known to be regrouping in jungle bases in the East after the loss of their northern stronghold. They have since carried out a series of attacks on the security forces in the East whilst cutting out power supplies and disrupting transports. The security forces have inflicted heavy casualties on the LTTE terrorists during their offensive. A naval craft on patrol detected an LTTE fiberglass dinghy at sea in Mullaitivu at around 0200 yesterday. The naval craft engaged the terrorist dinghy with its main gun and completely destroyed it.

Between 20 and 30 terrorists have been reported killed by the security forces in a major offensive in the Eastern Province. Troops of the operation code named (Vivekirana) have also destroyed several LTTE camps and captured a 500-bed terrorist hospital in the jungles of Toppigala in the Batticaloa District.

LANKAPUVATH reports that 11 soldiers were wounded in fighting in the Taranikkulam area. The news agency quoted senior military sources as saying that large stocks of LTTE arms and ammunition including grenades, mortars, and anti-personnel mines have been recovered in the operation so far. An estimated 500 LTTE cadres have fled after confrontation with the security forces. There were signs of heavy terrorist casualties and troops (?forcing) their way into the Toppigala base complex. The complex is the Tigers main stronghold in Batticaloa. The terrorists have reportedly retreated toward the base identified as (Bayrut) under the command of the LTTE's military wing leader Karuna.

The police in the Eastern Batticaloa District last night called upon the Navy to check on an unidentified ship which was anchored about five miles off the coast of Batticaloa. Meanwhile, in northeastern Trincomalee, LTTE terrorists last night removed the outboard motors, the OBM, from the ferry plying between (Kiniya) and China Bay. The ferry had been parked at (Kiniya) when a group of terrorists removed the OBMs around 2200 after an exchange of fire with the nearby (Kiniya) police post.

The LTTE, which had suffered an ignominious defeat at the hands of security forces, is now engaged in a media war in an attempt to tarnish the image of the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, according to political observers. They say the LTTE is following the well-known actions of Dr. Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda chief. The magnitude of a lie indulged it was a credibility, they said. They say that the LTTE since the loss of its bastion on December 4 last year upto the first week of January has issued more than 55 statements from its London office which are canards about shortage of food, breakout of epidemics, civilians being killed by the dropping of barrel bombs. On the contrary, many nongovernmental voluntary organizations, the NGOs, including the UNHCR and ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] have admitted that those who are displaced are not experiencing the kind of difficulties as alleged by the LTTE. Observers say these statements are being issued without any knowledge of the ground situation.



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